

# MUSTANG DAILY

1916

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

2006

## TODAY'S WEATHER

High 65°

Low 44°



IN SLO OUTDOOR ADVENTURES, 16

Lacrosse looks to finish strong in the playoffs

New dance technique weaves its way into Performing Arts Center tonight

IN DIVERSIONS, 9



Volume LXIX, Number 107

Thursday, April 6, 2006

www.mustangdaily.net

## Report shows Cal Poly freshmen rank highest in college readiness

Jennifer Hall  
MUSTANG DAILY

Freshmen Cal Poly students ranked highest in the recent California State University 2005 annual report in mathematics and English proficiency and high school grade point average for entering freshmen.

The study, published on March 15, 2006, analyzed freshmen stu-

dents' readiness for college based on three components.

Cal Poly students ranked the highest among all the CSU schools in all three areas.

"Our newly-selected students are college ready," said Jim Maraviglia, assistant vice president for admissions, recruitment and financial aid at Cal Poly.

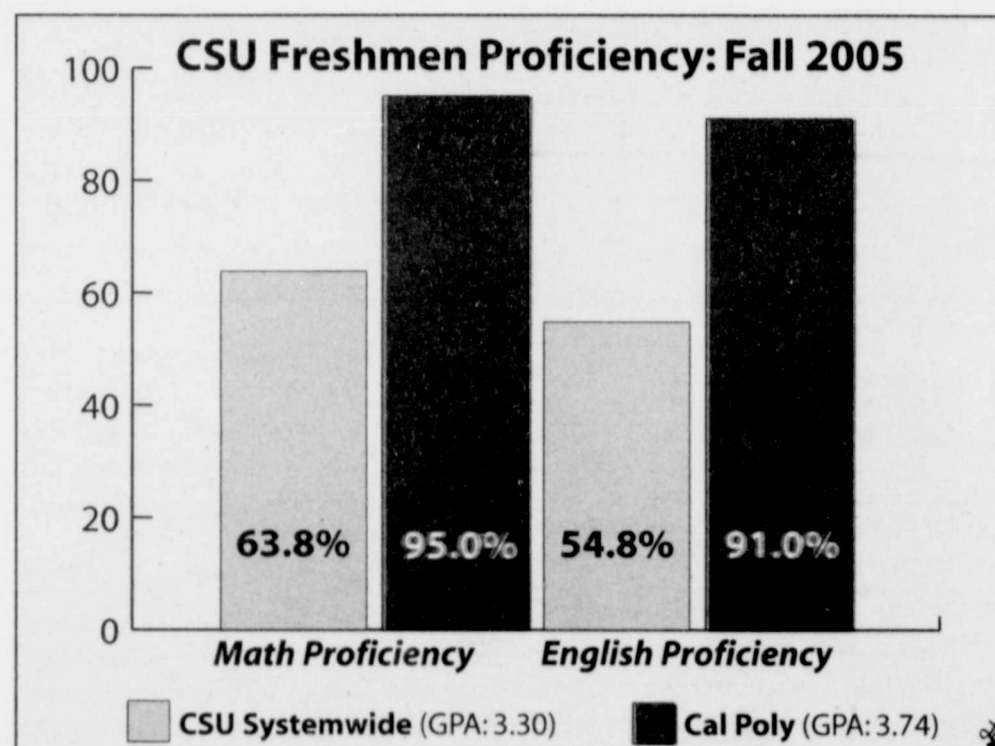
Ninety-five percent of freshmen Cal Poly students were proficient in

mathematics and 91 percent were proficient in English, according to the CSU Web site.

The report also included the percentage of Cal Poly students that required remediation in mathematics and English during their first year.

Five percent of freshmen required remediation in mathematics and 9 percent required remediation in

see Proficiency, page 2



## Report: Facebook wants \$2B

Angela Cai & Tatiana Lau  
THE DAILY PRINCETONIAN (PRINCETON)

PRINCETON, N.J. — The creators of facebook.com, the online social networking Web site for college and high school students, hopes to sell the private company for as much as \$2 billion, BusinessWeek Online reported March 28.

Facebook spokesman Chris Hughes, however, refused to discuss the rumor.

"The BusinessWeek story is based on nothing but speculation, and we do not comment on rumors," Hughes, a senior at Harvard, said in an e-mail to The Daily Princetonian. Hughes declined to comment further on the issue.

According to the BusinessWeek article, "senior industry executives familiar with the matter" said Facebook's owners had already turned down a \$750 million offer. The article also strongly suggests that corporate media giant Viacom might be "a good fit" for Facebook.

Created two years ago by then-Harvard sophomore Mark Zuckerberg and his friends, Facebook is now one of the most popular Web sites in the world. Market researcher comScore Media Metrix ranks it as the seventh most frequented site, behind sixth-place Google, second-place MySpace and first-place Yahoo!.

MySpace sold for \$580 million last summer to News Corporation, a media company headed by tycoon Rupert Murdoch. ComScore reports show that the sale has not negatively affected MySpace's popularity.

see Facebook, page 12

## FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES



COURTESY PHOTO

Martha Beninger, forestry senior, placed fourth in the single bucking event at the logging competition.

## Lumberjack-and-jills compete in logging events for Cal Poly



COURTESY PHOTO

Forestry senior Brian Morris competes in the limber pole event.

Jennifer Boudevin  
MUSTANG DAILY

While lumberjack Paul Bunyan and his big, blue ox Babe are characters of myth, the sport of logging is no tall tale.

The Cal Poly Logging Team knows this firsthand, carrying on the legacy of traditional forestry field skills on campus.

The coed team has been a part of the natural resources management department for nearly three decades, competing in traditional lumberjack/lumberjill events, as well as in forestry-related technical events all while having a lot of fun in the process, said the team's former co-president, Mike Papa.

The team recently competed in the annual Association of Western Forestry Club (AWFC) Conclave, where the

see Logging, page 2

## Anti-hazing bill strides closer to being law

Jennifer Scholtes  
THE ORION (CAL STATE-CHICO)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Debbie Smith was so nervous Tuesday she didn't think she could walk across the courtroom to speak about why an anti-hazing bill should become state law, she said.

But Smith, whose son died during a hazing ritual, was strong enough to not only walk across the room but to clear the first hurdle in her mission to get the law passed.

The California Public Safety Committee voted unanimously in support of the Matt's Law bill Tuesday. Although the committee supported the bill, it will go through seven more committees before becoming a law.

Smith helped write the law after her son Matthew Carrington, a 21-year-old California State University-Chico student, died Feb. 2, 2005, during a fraternity hazing ritual. Carrington drank from a 5-gallon jug of water and did calisthenics throughout the night, police said.

Smith told the committee how her son died and why she thinks hazing needs to stop.

"It's not about sisterly or brotherly love," she said. "It's about power — power to reduce our children to nothing."

Smith was nervous the first committee wouldn't pass the bill, she said.

"Oh God, what a great day today was," she said. "I have been such a wreck."

see Hazing, page 2



## Proficiency

continued from page 1

English.

According to a Cal Poly press release, 98 percent of the students admitted to Cal Poly who required remediation were proficient at the end of their first year.

"Remediation really isn't an issue," Maraviglia said.

The average high school grade point average for entering Cal Poly students was 3.74 according to the Web site.

Systemwide, 63.2 percent of CSU freshman were proficient in mathematics and 53.4 percent were proficient in English. The mean high school grade point average was 3.31.

The Maritime Academy held the second-highest ranks with 81.1 percent of first-time freshman profi-

cient in mathematics and 74.1 percent proficient in English.

The second-highest mean in high school grade point average was San Diego State with an average of 3.49.

At Cal Poly Pomona, 71.2 percent of freshman were proficient in mathematics and 50.6 percent were proficient in English. The mean high school grade point average was 3.29.

In the 2004 CSU annual report, 95.6 percent of freshmen Cal Poly San Luis Obispo students were proficient in mathematics and 89.2 percent were proficient in English. The mean high school grade point average was 3.77.

The CSU Trustee policy requires that new students show proficiency in math and English before they can enroll in college-level math and English courses.

Proficiency is based on standardized test scores or performance on the CSU Entry Level Math (ELM) exam and the CSU English Placement Test (EPT) according to the CSU Web site.

The report also included a racial and gender breakdown in proficiency and grade point average. This breakdown and additional information regarding the annual report can be found at [www.cal-state.edu](http://www.cal-state.edu).

## Hazing

continued from page 1

If all eight committees pass the bill, Matt's Law will make hazing a misdemeanor, even if the hazing doesn't injure anyone. And it will make hazing illegal for everyone, not just students.

California state Sen. Tom Torlakson said the bill will be more likely to pass in future committees if people continue to show up in sup-

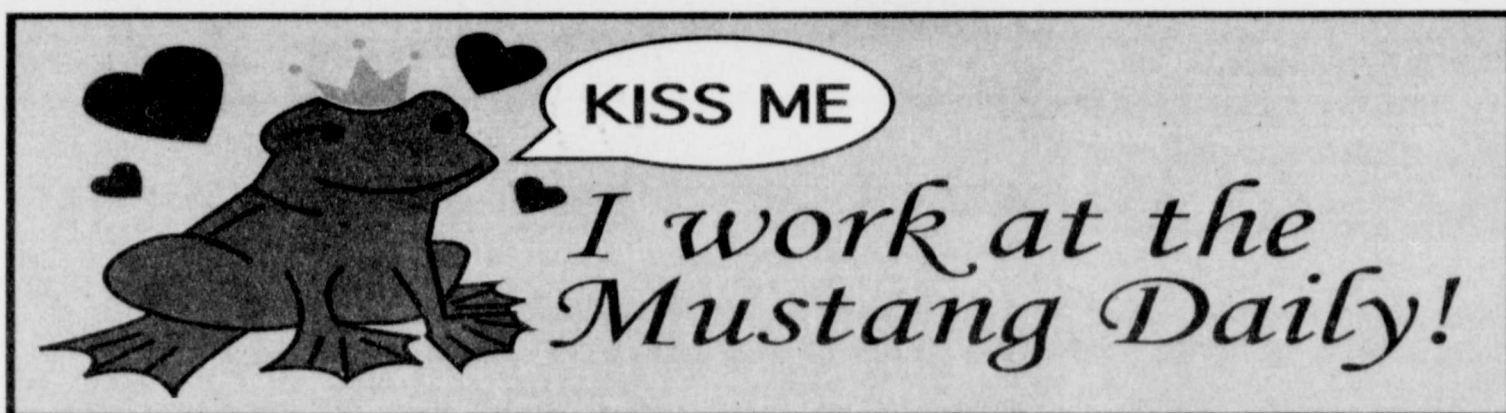
port.

"It's important that you stick together so strongly," Torlakson said.

Thirty people wore red shirts to the hearing to show support for the bill.

Jim Moon, vice president for student affairs at Chico State, was among the supporters and will continue to go to the hearings, he said.

"The unanimous passage today was wonderful and showed the broad-based support," Moon said.



## Logging

continued from page 1

Cal Poly Logging A-Team placed fifth overall. The Cal Poly Logging B-Team came in 12th.

The event, held March 22-24 at Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch, invited teams from forestry departments at universities in Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and Utah to compete in a series of contests involving both physical skills and technical knowledge.

This year, 12 teams from 10 universities and community colleges

entered 110 student loggers in three days of competition and contests including compass use, plant and tree identification, pole climbing, axe throwing and chopping, among others.

The event was "spectacular to say the least," said Doug Piirto, the logging team IRA program manager. "I am very, very proud of the Cal Poly forestry and natural resources (FNR) and Logging Team students."

When the team is not engaging in competition, its members keep busy with a number of exhibitions held throughout the school year. Logging Team students can also take the FNR 290 class, forestry skills, to enhance

their abilities.

"The FNR 290 class meets a couple of times per week with scheduled practices as part of the class activities," Piirto said in an e-mail, adding that the AWFC Conclave is one of the "learn-by-doing" activities the class provides.

The team sources and sells firewood annually as its main fund-raiser, and sets up a booth during Cal Poly's Open House where anybody can try their hand at axe throwing.

For detailed results of the AWFC 2006 competition, including the results of individual Cal Poly competitors who placed in events, visit the Mustang Daily's Web site at [www.mustangdaily.net](http://www.mustangdaily.net).

## Under Four

... or on AP?

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING

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		8	4					
2				7			5	
3	7			9				1
7							1	
4			8	2	9			7
	5							6
5				8			7	9
	8			5				3
					6	4		

MEDIUM

# 13

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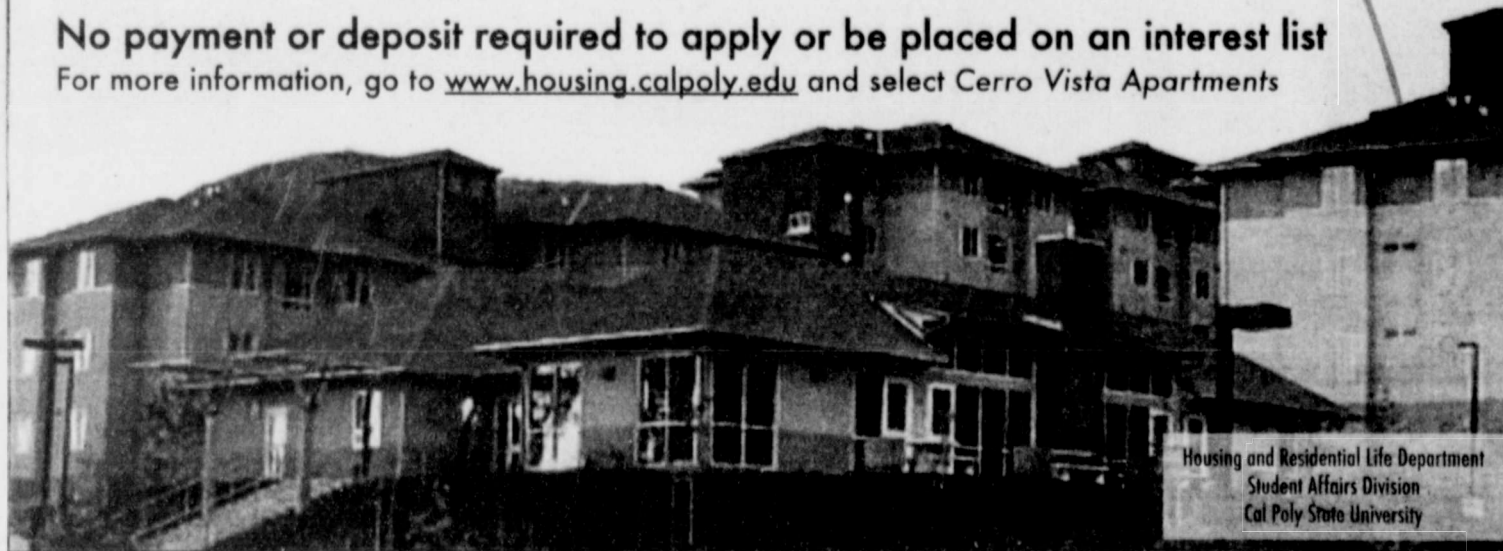
MARCH 7 - 20, 2006

Students currently living on-campus in the residence halls can apply online for the North Mountain lottery.

APRIL 10, 2006

Students living off-campus, and students currently living on-campus who did not enter the lotteries or interest list process, can now request to have their names placed on an interest list for Cerro Vista and/or North Mountain by emailing [housing@calpoly.edu](mailto:housing@calpoly.edu).

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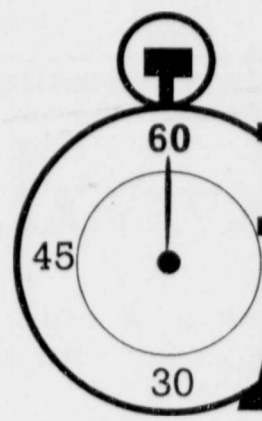
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# MUSTANG MINUTE

Assistant news editor: Erick Smith • esmith00@calpoly.edu

Online: [www.mustangdaily.net](http://www.mustangdaily.net)

Thursday, April 6, 2006

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## WHO SAID THAT?

(Long hair) is considered bohemian, which may be why I grew it, but I keep it long because I love the way it feels, part cloak, part fan, part mane, part security blanket.

— Marge Piercy

Don't gamble; take all your savings and buy some good stock and hold it till it goes up, then sell it. If it don't go up, don't buy it.

— Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)

## Wordly Wise

**Metier:** An occupation, especially in which one excels.

**Supernumerary:** Exceeding a necessary or usual number.

**BREAKING NEWS**  
UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE  
[www.mustangdaily.net](http://www.mustangdaily.net)

## The Face of Cal Poly presents...

### Meet the Editors



**Name:** Maricar Mendoza

**Year:** senior

**Hometown:** San Jose

**Major:** journalism

### Favorites

**Bar:** Black Sheep

**Drink:** Ummm, too much to choose from, but considering the deadline, I'm going to have to go with a mango mojito.

**Movie:** If I'm feeling a little violent it is "Kill Bill Vol. 1" for sure. If I feel like a hustler, it's "Pool Hall Junkies" all the way.

**Mustang Daily section:** Diversions

**Quote:** "There is no right way or wrong way, you just have to live/ and so I do what I do, and at least I exist/ what could mean more than this?/ what would mean more, mean more?" — Bright Eyes

### If You Could ...

— do any drug and it wouldn't harm you, what would it be and why?  
Heroin, because I hear good stuff about it.

— be on any game show which would it be and why?  
Though I love "Wheel of Fortune," I think I'd have to go with "The Price is Right" because I have to meet Bob Barker before he dies.

### Either/Or

Have a third eye or a sixth sense: Sixth sense.  
Be a bird or a whale: A bird.

## Spring into FITNESS!

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To attend exercise classes at the Cal Poly Recreation Center you will need to purchase a Spring Exercise Class Pass.

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MORNING	Spin 6:30 - 7:30 Pi-Yo 9:10 - 10		Spin 6:30 - 7:30 Pi-Yo 9:10 - 10		Yoga 10:10 - 11	Spin 10 - 11 Core 11:10 - 11:40	Pi-Yo 9 - 10 Cardio Kick 10:10 - 11:10
AFTERNOON	Body Sculpt 12:10 - 12:55 Core 1:10 - 1:40 Hard Core 3:10 - 3:40	Yoga on the Ball 12:05 - 1	Body Sculpt 12:10 - 12:55 Core 1:10 - 1:40 Hard Core 3:10 - 3:40	Yoga on the Ball 12:05 - 1	Body Sculpt 12:10 - 12:55 Butts & Guts 1:10 - 1:40	<b>↑ Saturday &amp; Sunday classes are FREE</b>	
EVENING	Cardio Kick 3:45 - 4:45 Spin & Sculpt 4:50 - 6 Step & Abs 6:10 - 7 Hip Hop 7:05 - 8	Body Sculpt 4:10 - 5 Spin 5:10 - 6	Cardio Kick 3:45 - 4:45 Spin & Sculpt 4:50 - 6 Step & Abs 6:10 - 7	Body Sculpt 4:10 - 5 Spin 5:10 - 6 Hip Hop 7:30 - 8:30	Pi-Yo 4:15 - 5:15		

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## State briefs

**VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE** — Former first lady Nancy Reagan will be on hand as the Air Force dedicates its Central Coast missile defense complex to her late husband.

It was former President Ronald Reagan, who died June 5, 2004, who championed the weapons system — dubbed “Star Wars” when proposed in 1983 — designed to shoot down intercontinental ballistic missiles fired on the U.S.

The Ronald W. Reagan missile defense site includes four silos that house two interceptor missiles. Two silos are being used for testing.

— The Associated Press

**HEALDSBURG** — A 75-foot-tall oak tree crashed into a residence along the Russian River, narrowly avoiding hitting a resident in the second-story apartment of the house.

“It felt like an earthquake,” said Sam Metz, 30, who was alone in his apartment when the tree fell about 11:15 a.m. Monday.

Part of the multi-trunked tree came through the ceiling before coming to rest atop a brick wall. It did not hit Metz or damage any of his possessions.

— The Associated Press

**DEVORE** — Eleven cars on a mile-long freight train derailed in the Cajon Pass near Interstate 15, spilling at least nine carloads of kernel corn onto the railway.

No one was hurt and the cause of the derailment wasn't known.

— The Associated Press

**Juliana Barbassa**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**MERCED** — Two Central Valley levees broke Tuesday, forcing evacuations from residential neighborhoods and inundating farmland amid soaking rains that forecasters said could pummel Northern California for two more weeks.

“I got a sweater, a top, a pair of pants — only what I had on my back,” said Cora Ramirez, who was trapped in her house by rising water and had to be carried out by firefighters. She waited out the flooding at an American Red Cross shelter.

“You see these things in the paper, but you never think it'll happen to you,” said the wheelchair-bound Ramirez.

The levees gave out as record-breaking rains continued to pound Northern California, forcing some residents from homes near San Francisco because of the threat of landslides. Authorities were bracing for more rainfall into mid-April.

“The bad news is rain stays in the forecast basically until further notice,” said Ryan Walbrun, lead forecaster at the National Weather Service's Monterey office. The weather service was holding regular conference calls with state disaster-management officials in preparation for possible additional evacuations.

Floodwaters breached a 30-foot section of levee along a creek in Merced, sending up to 18 inches of water pouring through a mobile home park, said Michael Miller, a spokesman for the Department of Water Resources. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

About 200 people from three trailer parks were evacuated, said Elaine Post, spokeswoman for the Merced County Office of Emergency Services. About 25 families took refuge in the Red



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**A Merced County Sheriff's Department truck patrols at a mobile home park Tuesday in Merced, after two levees broke, flooding the trailer park and threatening other homes in Merced and inundating farmland south of Sacramento.**

Cross shelter inside a high school cafeteria.

The floodwaters also swelled into a nearby residential neighborhood, peaking at about 2 feet above sidewalks, then receding, leaving a grimy ring of debris on homes marking the high water.

Mario Ortega carried out his elderly parents' belongings into a waiting pickup truck, wading through standing water that covered what was once their front lawn. “How long will they have to put up with this? It's frustrating to see them in this situation,” Ortega said.

Joe and Karen Hart said their Merced neighborhood was “surrounded” by water, though their house stayed dry. They weren't taking any chances, though, dropping by a sandbag distribution center set up by the California Department of Forestry.

“We're doing what we can,” Joe

Hart said as he loaded sandbags in his pickup truck. “We don't want to end up like in New Orleans.”

At the Golden Wheel trailer park near Merced, floodwaters crept up to doorways. Barbara Cabezut said she awoke to a knock, and found a sheriff's deputy waiting.

“I looked out the door and said ‘God, we're flooded,’” Cabezut said as she waited at the Red Cross shelter for the waters to recede. The elderly woman waded through deep water to get to the deputy's truck. By Tuesday afternoon, the Golden Wheel trailer park was effectively cut off from the outside world by road closures.

South of Sacramento, a Consumnes River levee east of Highway 99 gave way, swamping fields but posing no threat to homes, highways or railroad tracks. A levee in the same area broke in January during heavy storms.

With no end in sight for the

rains, the levee breaks heightened anxieties here about this region's fragile levee system.

In Washington, D.C., a key Senate spending committee approved \$22 million for high-priority levee repair projects on the California Delta. That is a tiny fraction of the \$6 billion Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger sought earlier this year.

“I think it just shows, again, how important it is for us to concentrate on repairing and fixing our levees,” Schwarzenegger said Tuesday.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved the money as part of an emergency spending bill for hurricane recovery and military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who sits on the committee.

The House version of the legislation does not include the levee money, so even if the full Senate passes the measure, the two houses would have to reach a compromise.

Sacramento had 5.29 inches of rain in March — 2.49 inches more than average, according to the National Weather Service. Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, San Rafael and Santa Rosa all broke rainy-day records last month.

Reservoir operators released water from a variety of dams in the valley, including Friant Dam outside Fresno, to make way for the rainwater.

“We don't have a concern with what the releases are right now,” said Gary Barbini, chief hydrologist for flood operations. “It's cumulative and manageable.”

In Broadmoor, south of San Francisco, a handful of residents left their homes after a voluntary evacuation order was issued when a hillside above their neighborhood threatened to give way.

And Highway 1 south of San Francisco was closed in three places, including at Devil's Slide, long prone to rockslides.

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## National briefs

**WASHINGTON** — The House on Wednesday voted to limit the multimillion-dollar donations to nonprofit groups that changed the face of American politics in the 2004 presidential election. Majority Republicans said they were closing what they contended was a gaping loophole. Democrats portrayed the vote as an effort to undercut their supporters.

— The Associated Press

**GRAND FORKS, N.D.** — A levee and pump system under construction nearly a decade after flooding wiped out Grand Forks is passing its first big test.

The Red River was projected to crest Thursday at 48 feet — 20 feet above flood stage but well below the top of the new levee.

"We're cautiously optimistic," said City Administrator Richard Duquette. "A lot of us who went through the '97 flood are watchful, but we are very gratified to have this levee project."

— The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Now that Katie Couric is making the move from dawn to dusk, her legacy and the future of CBS News depends on an audience that, according to a new poll, prefers to see her in the morning.

Asked if they would rather see Couric in her longtime role as "Today" host or as the first woman to anchor a network weekday evening newscast on her own, 49 percent favored the morning and 29 percent said evening, according to a poll conducted this week by The Associated Press and TV Guide.

After 15 years as morning television's queen, Couric confirmed Wednesday that she is leaving NBC's "Today" show to become anchor and managing editor of the "CBS Evening News" this fall. Her audience at "Today" is about 6 million viewers; "CBS Evening News" has about 7.5 million.

— The Associated Press

# Apparent human smuggling attempt uncovered in Seattle; 21 held in connection

Tim Klass  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SEATTLE** — Twenty-two Chinese nationals were in custody Wednesday after they apparently let themselves out of a 40-foot cargo container that had been used to smuggle them from China, officials said.

The 18 men and four women, all believed to be in their 20s and 30s, seemed to be in good physical condition after about two weeks in the container, said Michael Milne, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Port of Seattle security guards spotted the group about 1 a.m.

Milne said there was no evidence of "any real criminal or terrorist activity ... just an alien smuggling operation."

He said the stowaways were believed to be part of an organized smuggling ring, but he had no information about how much they paid for the voyage or who ran the operation.

Milne said it could take investigators several days to determine whether they people be deported, be held as material witnesses or face other proceedings, such as asylum hearings.

The shipping container, the second from the bottom in a stack of four, had been flagged for a special examination, but that had not been conducted before the group was caught, Milne said.

It had been loaded on the ship in Shanghai and had water bottles, food, blankets and toilet facilities.

"The conditions are certainly not deluxe, but everyone came off in apparently good health," Milne said.

The group apparently pried the container open early Wednesday and lowered themselves about seven feet to the ground, he said. About half were found within the terminal and the other half were spotted trying to get out through a gate, Milne said.

Once they were intercepted, "there was no attempt to flee or hide," he said. "They were cooperative."

The ship is owned by China Shipping Line, Milne said.

Officials at Norton Lilly, a Mobile, Ala., company listed as



This image made available by U.S. Customs and Border Protection shows the interior of a 40-foot cargo container used to transport 22 Chinese nationals believed to be part of a human smuggling operation who were detained after they arrived to the Port of Seattle aboard a ship from Shanghai Wednesday morning. Port of Seattle security guards spotted the 18 men and four women about 1 a.m. at Terminal 18, determined that they were not crew members from the China Shipping Line's Rotterdam and summoned federal authorities, said Michael Milne, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

China Shipping Line's agent in Seattle, did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said the incident demonstrated the need for greater port security.

"This appears to have been a

case of human smuggling, but that cargo container could have been filled with anything from a dirty bomb to a cell of terrorists," Murray said Wednesday in a speech on the Senate floor.

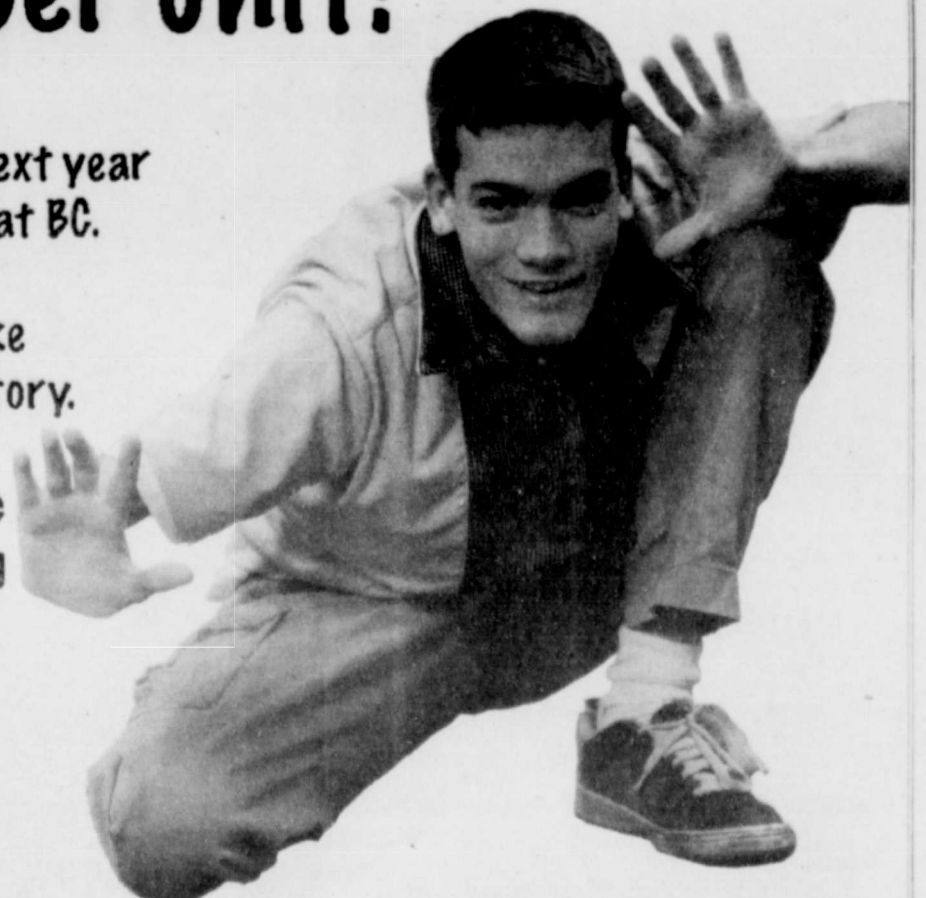
It was believed to be the first detection of a human smuggling

attempt via cargo container in Seattle since a flurry along the U.S. and Canadian West Coast in 2000 and 2001. Almost all of those caught were deported. Three found in a shipping container had died before reaching Seattle in January 2000.

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## Needed: Student Representatives

For 2006-07  
Cal Poly Corporation  
Board of Directors

Applications are now available in the ASI Student Government Office, University Union Room 202.

Applications are due:  
April 10, 2006 before 5:00pm

The Cal Poly Corporation (formerly Foundation) Board of Directors serves as the governing body for the Cal Poly Corporation.

Among the many duties of the Cal Poly Corporation is the management of the University investment portfolio, its agriculture and research-related projects, Campus Dining, and the El Corral Bookstore.



## Moussaoui judge OKs first public playing of cockpit tape from Pennsylvania jet on 9/11

Michael J. Sniffen  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The cockpit recording from the hijacked jetliner that passengers tried to retake on Sept. 11 will be played in public for the first time — at the sentencing trial of al-Qaida conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui — the judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema said the jury considering whether to execute Moussaoui could hear the recording from United Airlines Flight 93 and see a transcript of it.

The flight is best known for one passenger's rallying cry to other passengers, "Let's roll," which was overheard over a cell phone connection between a passenger and a family member on the ground.

This cockpit tape was played privately April 18, 2002, for the families of Flight 93 victims, but it has never been played in public. Family members told reporters afterward they heard "yelling and screaming" and muffled voices that were hard to identify.

"Listening to the tape confirmed for me that there was a heroic teamwork effort," said Alice Hoglan of Los Gatos, Calif., whose son, Mark Bingham, called from the air before the plane crashed into an empty field — the only one of four jets hijacked on Sept. 11, 2001, that did not kill anyone on the ground.

There has been debate over whether the hijackers intended to crash it into the U.S. Capitol or the White House. But last week the Moussaoui jury heard a government-approved summary of statements made during interrogation of the captured mastermind of Sept. 11, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who said it was to hit the Capitol.

Prosecutors asked the judge to order the tape and transcript kept sealed from the general public after it is played in open court, but Brinkema did not decide that question immediately.

Noting that the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered trial evidence made public, she said relatives of Flight 93 victims would have until next Tuesday to advise her whether they object to general release of the material.

She said if no family members object, she will release the material to the general public the day after it is submitted into evidence. No date was set for that.

The sentencing trial of Moussaoui resumes Thursday morning. In the first phase, the jury unanimously found the 37-year-old Frenchman eligible for the death penalty on counts of conspiracy to commit international terrorism, to commit air piracy and to use weapons of mass destruction. The second phase will examine aggravating and mitigating evidence about his crimes, and the

jury will decide whether he deserves to be executed or imprisoned for life for his role in the Sept. 11 attacks.

In an order describing a closed hearing Wednesday morning, Brinkema said the government's policy reason for wanting to keep the tape and transcript sealed from general release was "to protect the National Traffic Safety Board against premature public speculation regarding the cause of any airline crash so it may conduct a full and fair investigation." Brinkema said even prosecutors admitted in court that that reason "is not implicated in this sentencing proceeding."

Much of what happened aboard Flight 93 is known because passengers used cell phones in flight to call their loved ones. Earlier in the trial, prosecutor David Raskin transfixed the jury by reading accounts of the last moments of several of the Sept. 11 planes based on cell phone calls by passengers and flight attendants to family members and ground controllers.

A Hollywood movie re-enacting Flight 93 is to be released later this month.

Discussing general public release of the tape and transcript, Brinkema wrote, "The court is also mindful that family members of the flight crew or passengers on Flight 93 may object to the voices of their loved ones being publicly revealed in this manner."

## Jury splits verdict in two New Jersey Vioxx lawsuits

John Curran  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — A jury found Merck & Co. liable on Wednesday for one of two former Vioxx users' heart attacks in a split verdict that awarded \$4.5 million in damages to one of the plaintiffs.

The state jury found the company failed to adequately warn both men about the risk factors linking the now-withdrawn painkiller to heart attacks and strokes, but said the drug was only a factor in one of the men's illnesses.

Jurors ruled that only John McDarby, 77, a retired insurance agent from Park Ridge, should receive compensation. McDarby was awarded \$3 million for pain and suffering and his wife was awarded \$1.5 million. He did not comment after the verdict.

The trial also included the case of Thomas Cona, a 60-year-old businessman from Cherry Hill who was stricken on a golf course after what he said was nearly two years of Vioxx use. The jury said he should receive \$45 to compensate him for the cost of his medication. Cona declined comment after the verdict.

The verdict is the second court loss for Merck, against two victories, one in a retrial. The trial was the first dealing with plaintiffs who

blamed illnesses on long-term use of the painkiller.

McDarby lawyer Robert Gordon called the verdict, which followed less than two days of deliberations, "a victory for 100,000 Americans who had heart attacks from Vioxx."

"This is a victory for the tens of thousands of doctors who were lied to by Merck about the dangers of Vioxx," Gordon added.

McDarby, a diabetic who took Vioxx for four years, suffered his heart attack in his living room and broke his hip as a result, triggering a health slide that has left him using a wheelchair and unable to care for himself, according to his attorneys.

Merck, which faces about 9,650 suits in state and federal courts over Vioxx, said it will continue to fight each one.

"Today's split verdict is a disappointment to the thousands of employees of Merck here in New Jersey and across the country," Merck spokesman Chuck Harrell said. "At this point the jury has spoken, but this split ruling at least suggests that we need to look at these cases on an individual basis as we have done in the past."

The jury was expected to return to court Thursday to decide whether the company will face punitive damages. The judge told jurors not to comment until after the entire trial ends.

## Many state homeland security directors unhappy with federal intelligence sharing

David Crary  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Most state Homeland Security directors are dissatisfied with the quality of intelligence data provided by the federal government, a report released Wednesday said, and most also believe that multiple demands on National Guard forces undermine their emergency response capabilities.

The survey was the second annual report on homeland security con-

ducted by the National Governors Association, and the first since Hurricane Katrina and the emerging threat of a global avian flu pandemic. As a result, natural disasters and pandemic influenza joined the security officials' list of top concerns, along with intelligence, interagency coordination and emergency communications.

The survey was sent to homeland security directors in each state and five territories and commonwealths; 40 directors responded. Among the

major findings:

—Multiple demands on National Guard forces have left more than half the states with a diminished capability to meet responsibilities of state emergency plans.

—The directors remain concerned about lack of state input into the development of federal security policy. Directors are nearly unanimous in recommending that the federal government coordinate with states prior to adopting and implementing policies.

—Most of the directors are dissatisfied with the specificity and usefulness of intelligence their states receive from the federal government.

—Most directors view the primary state grant program of the federal Department of Homeland Security as underemphasizing disaster prevention and recovery. One director said more flexibility was needed so states could spend the money as they saw fit, whether that be for adding personnel or tightening protection

of possible terrorism targets.

According to the survey, the states do not feel they have representation in the Department of Homeland Security's policy development and rule-making process. Several state directors said DHS consults with a few hand-picked state officials and "then claims that it produced policy based on broad state input," the survey said.

The state directors also suggested that federal security officials could do more to reduce bureaucratic red tape and burdensome paperwork requirements.

Regarding intelligence, 60 percent of responding state directors were dissatisfied with the specificity of intelligence they receive from the federal government, and 55 percent were dissatisfied with the "actionable quality" of that intelligence. In the initial survey a year ago, less than half the directors voiced such dissatisfaction.

Regarding the National Guard, the state directors noted that most states and cities rely on these forces to help cope for the first three or four days after a major disaster. A majority of the directors said that the demands on Guard forces — including overseas deployment in Iraq and elsewhere — have reduced their emergency-response capability by at least 25 percent.

The survey said this problem could worsen, depending on the outcome of a proposed change that would allow active-duty military deployment of Guard units to be extended from 270 days to one year.

The Department of Homeland Security did not respond immediately to telephone and e-mail requests for comment on the survey.

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## Blue October's 'Foiled' brings new light to rock

Brigette Barbosa  
MUSTANG DAILY

Blue October isn't a household name — at least not yet.

The once up-and-coming band from Texas has finally achieved semi-stardom. They might not have a glass case full of Grammys, or in the case of Three 6 Mafia, even an Oscar, but they do have a growing fan base and catchy singles.

"Hate me today/ Hate me tomorrow/ Hate me so you can finally see what's good for you." Lines like this might not win any "Lyric of the Year" awards, but they certainly convey the message.

What message is that? Blue October lets you decide. Their storytelling songs allow listeners to relate and understand the underlying problems.

Blue October's fifth album, "Foiled," hit stores April 4, but the single "Hate Me" recently peaked at No. 5 on the Billboard Modern Rock music chart.

The song "Hate Me" is about a man going through the various stages of a relationship and understanding the mistakes he has made. He eventually realizes that his self-loving attitude may be the reason for the problems in his relationship. And the girl, is better off without him, according to frontman Justin Furstenfeld.

**You might not break down and cry based on the lyrics ... but you will find songs that rival the heart-filled, emotional lyrics of bands like Coldplay and Dashboard Confessional.**

"He speaks the truth. It's all real-life experiences everyone can relate to," said fellow band mate, guitarist and vocalist CB Hudson on the band's official Web site, [blueoctober.com](http://blueoctober.com). "Our music touches people in the heart. I'm really proud of that."

You might not break down and cry based on the lyrics, or even find the key to love hidden deep in the rock anthems included on this album, but you will find songs that rival the heart-filled, emotional lyrics of bands like Coldplay and Dashboard Confessional. But unlike Dashboard songs that force you to pull over for fear of hitting the car in front of you as tears stream down your face (not that anyone I know has), Blue October invites you to reflect and just listen.

The best part about "Foiled" is being able to listen and analyze the content based on personal experiences. Blue October doesn't force listeners to take their view of life, but allows the opportunity for fans

to agree and add personal input to make the songs what they want.

Track No. 11, "Everlasting Friend," provides the best example of this capability. Lyrics like "Please take the message that you taught me how to live at last/ But I said my confidence, it gets stronger when you're next to me/ But will you wave respect good bye in quest for what we



COURTESY PHOTO

Blue October released their new album 'Foiled' this week and will perform on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno on April 14.

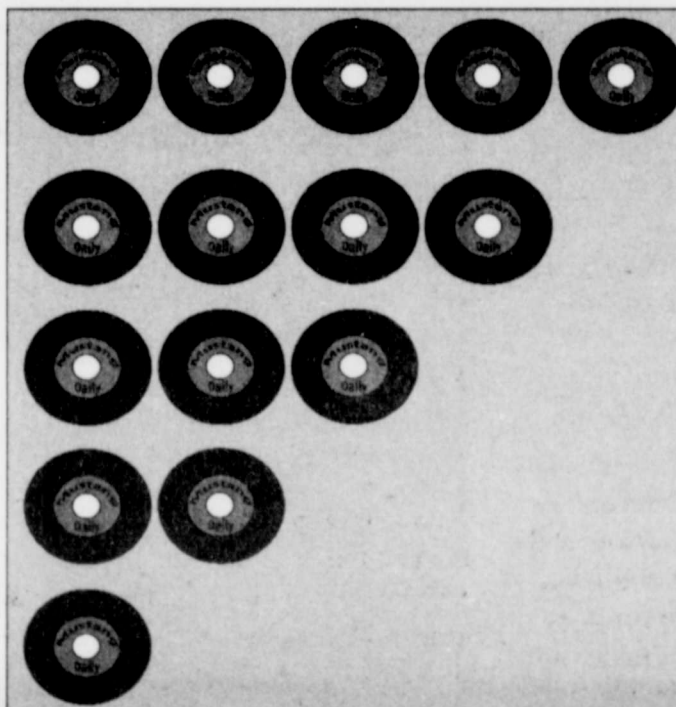
long to be" lead into the repetitive, but not boringly hypnotic chorus. "I might crumble and take a fall again/ I just want to know that you'll be coming home" is the chorus segment that gives the listener time to interpret their own thoughts and understand the message at their own level. This song, like the others on this album, is only what you make them. Nothing more, nothing less.

Blue October's other albums include "History for Sale," which features the track "Calling You" from "American Wedding," and "Consent to Treatment," the first album produced under their current label Universal Records.

Fans of Blue October will not be disappointed with "Foiled," and new listeners now have a spring-

board to enjoy the highs and lows of life in a new light.

### RATING:



Buy it or download it, either way it's a must-have.

Should become a new favorite.

Worth a trip to the music store.

Go download a couple songs.

Don't waste the space on your iPod.

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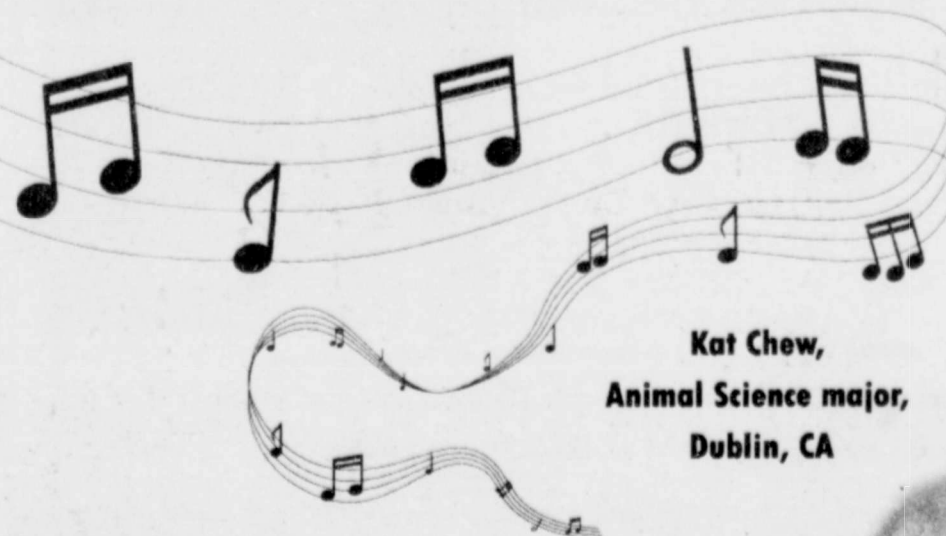
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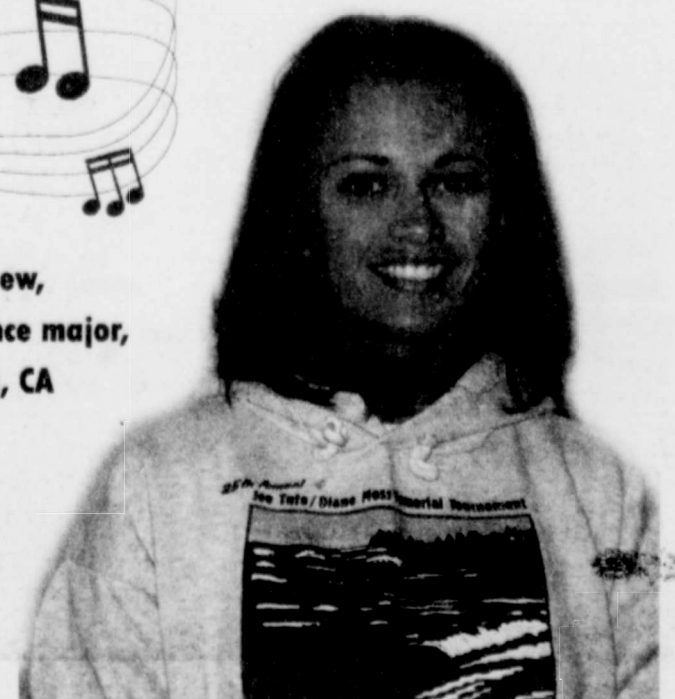
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**Kat Chew,**  
Animal Science major,  
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## Bars leave wallets empty, students craving more

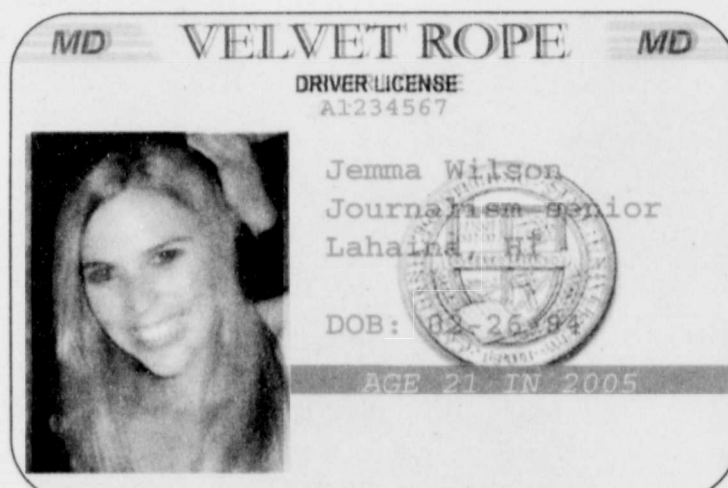
I recently turned 22 and as I reflect back on my first year of legally being allowed to drink, I can't help but feel guilty as I try to estimate the amount of money I have spent downtown.

One night at the bars can cost more than what some people make from a whole day's worth of work — if they work, that is — yet we still hop from bar to bar without a care in the world about how much money we are spending. But let's face it: The bars are an expensive place to be.

For the minority of Cal Poly students who actually do have to work to support themselves, being over 21 leads to a predicament. On one hand, you want to go out with your friends at every occasion no matter how much money you lose. But on the other hand, who really wants to go to work with a hangover the next day and end up broke at the end of the month?

The balance between the two isn't as easy as one would think.

I like to go out with the intentions that I will only spend a certain amount of money and will be home at a reasonable hour. But before you know it, 2 a.m. rolls



(Hey, as long as I'm having fun, right?), or B: Drink alcohol at home for a much cheaper price (limiting myself at the bars wouldn't work; self-control is not an option when drunk).

Considering that I wouldn't trade my parents for any amount of money, my only option seems to be drinking at home. But where is the fun in that?

It's so easy to create your own bar with an array of alcohol in the comfort of your own home. No stresses over what to wear, how you'll be getting home or if you're spending too much money come into mind. Yet, no matter how much booze is in the cabinets, it will never be as fun as socializing with your favorite drunks downtown.

My conclusion is that I'm addicted to downtown. No, not just to the alcohol, but to the atmosphere. It can't be explained why the bars are so fun, they just are. No matter how much more I complain about being too poor to go out, I still go.

So in the words of Huey Lewis, "We're not here for a long time, we're here for a good time." See you downtown!

around and you have no money left in your wallet for a cab ride, so you start your trek home with a few friends in tow.

When you wake up the next morning with that throbbing headache and dehydrated mouth, things appear much worse as you check your online bank statement. Not only is all your cash gone from your wallet, but apparently you opened up a tab at the bar last night and surely must have bought many rounds of drinks for a bill that much.

This is the dilemma I seem to face quite often. Why do I continually go out week-after-week only to complain about how much the bars are costing me?

The solution is complex. I could either A: Find a rich mommy and daddy to hand over their credit cards and not care how much money I'm spending

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## Downloading takes away that new-CD buzz

Josh Brodleit

THE ORACLE (MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE)

LOS ANGELES — Every time my soon-to-be brother-in-law walks out of a record store with a new CD, giddiness controls him like a crack addict.

He craves the crunchy sound the plastic wrapper makes when he tears it off. His eyes become bigger as he flips through the CD booklet, looking at the pictures and reading lyrics.

He feeds his cravings every week and spends about \$60 a month at record stores. This comes to \$720 each year.

Is this really who my sister is marrying? The guy has no grasp on investing. How's he going to take care of my sister if he can't take care of himself?

One day I brought up his spending habits, hoping I could offer some advice and ask why he wastes so much on stupid plastic circles when the Internet offers it all cheaper.

"Because I enjoy the process," he told me.

Since the invention of music downloading, record stores have taken a hit. It's not even illegal downloading that's affecting the market; consumers pay cheap monthly payments for unlimited legal downloads at Napster that cost much less than the tangible albums.

I feel for my future brother-in-law just as I feel for a withdrawing drug addict. I'm embarrassed for him because he wastes so much money investing in albums that have no turnaround. I also feel sorry for him because there is a good possibility record stores will become nothing more than a tale of the past for future generations.

But for those who don't care and download songs as frequently as porn stars have sex, get off your computer and go buy a CD. Don't do it for the music industry. Don't do it just to support the band. Don't do it because it's legal. Do it because it's fun.

Then I let my mind take me back to my first album purchase. It was NOFX's "White Trash Two Heebies and a Bean."

Every time I pull out the CD, it brings back memories no computer screen will ever be able to give me. One of the best music investments I ever made was that NOFX disc. I love the cover. I love the inside. I love the album name. I love the song names. I love the songs.

Making memories of CDs is more rewarding than sitting and watching your belly flab flop onto your thighs and waiting for a quick download.

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# 'Scary body' weaves a new dance

The Performing Arts Center will feature an array of local and national dance talent tonight and Friday.

Kelly Cope

MUSTANG DAILY

Dancer, choreographer and video editor Ashley Friend will be bringing her progressive post-modern performance entitled "One-Off Weaving" to the Spanos Theatre tonight and Friday starting at 8 p.m.

Inspired by her father, who was a local visual artist, professor, gallery owner and weaver Dennis Friend, who died at age 32 from Anthrax-poisoned wool used in his weaving just six weeks after his daughter was born, Friend has created a thrilling tribute to him in three parts. She will perform the first two — Weaving I and Weaving II — and will debut the third part, plus a piece showcasing what she calls the "scary body."

Conception of the tribute series will be an ongoing, lifelong endeavor, as Friend plans to complete all 32 parts — one for each year of her father's life.

Friend's "scary

body" composition utilizes prosthetic props, which are attached to the dancers' bodies. An interesting struggle ensues when the dancers try to deal with the choreography with the extra additions. The difficulty is representative both literally and metaphorically of the limitations humans impose on themselves and each other.

The "scary body" technique has also been used in some of Friend's previous performances such as in 2005's "Triage: PART I" and 2004's "Amorphosis," both performed in Columbus, Ohio.

The audience's experience will not only involve the dancers on stage, but also cutting-edge video, sound design, lighting, prosthetic props, set and costuming, which will all help to convey Friend's message that dance is not only entertaining, but also stirring.

**Her body expresses the dark and scary side of life with a specificity that most of us can only dream of ...**

—Rachel Boggia  
Ohio State University assistant professor

"Starting from a fetal position, Friend's (Weaving I) solo evolves by means that are alien, hesitant and always unexpected," wrote Jay Weitz in his article "Top 10 of 2003: The Year in Theater and Dance" for Columbus Alive 2004.

Rachel Boggia, assistant professor at Ohio State University, spoke of Friend in a graduation speech in June 2005, telling the crowd, "Her body expresses the dark and scary side of life with a specificity that most of us can only dream of, and a lighthearted twist that makes it all OK in the end."

In addition to Friend, Joe Alter will lend his talents as a guest artist if the concert, in the form of a solo, entitled "Spiegel im Spiegel."

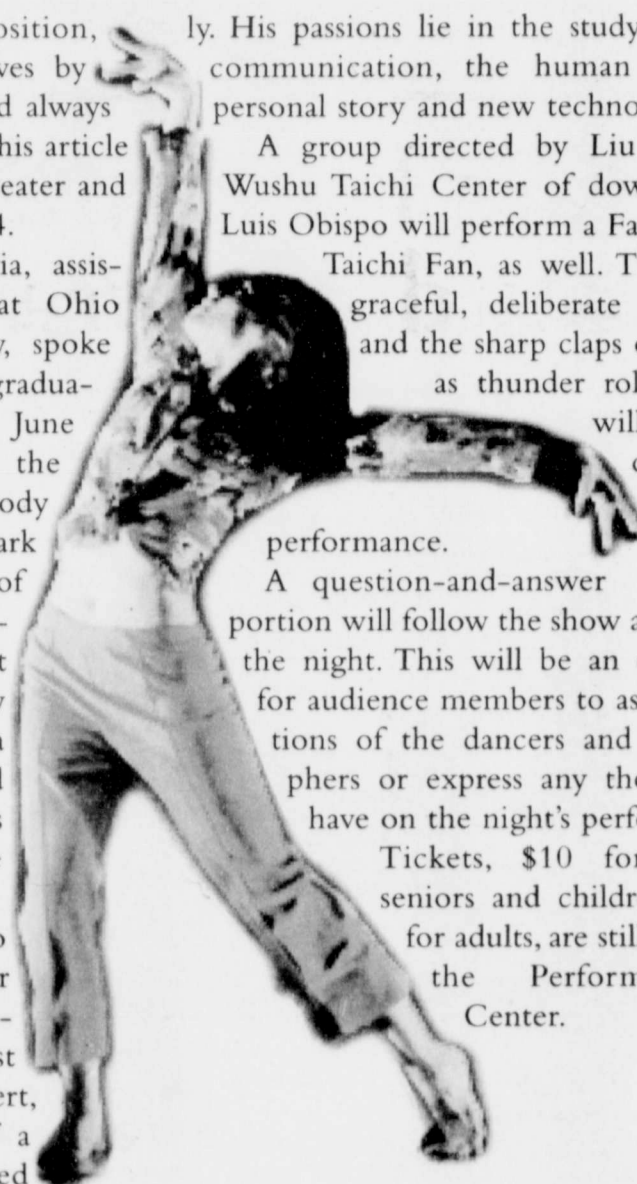
A professor in the School of Music and Dance at San Diego State University, Alter has also performed and choreographed nationally and international-

ly. His passions lie in the study of sensory communication, the human condition, personal story and new technologies.

A group directed by Liu Yu of the Wushu Taichi Center of downtown San Luis Obispo will perform a Fan Dance, or Taichi Fan, as well. The dancers' graceful, deliberate movements and the sharp claps of their fans as thunder rolls overhead will provide a contrast to the overall performance.

A question-and-answer portion will follow the show at the end of the night. This will be an opportunity for audience members to ask any questions of the dancers and choreographers or express any thoughts they have on the night's performance.

Tickets, \$10 for students, seniors and children and \$12 for adults, are still available at the Performing Arts Center.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Ashley Friend performs parts of a dance tribute for her father called "One-Off Weaving."

## EA Games creates a new addition to the Family

Tae Andrews

THE OBSERVER (NOTRE DAME)

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Prior to the video game release of "The Godfather," fan speculation about its quality was high — would it do justice to the film, or was it just a money-making addendum to the film series, in pursuit of the almighty dollar? After a March 21 release, the final verdict is out: Justice is served, although the game is hardly a masterpiece.

The Electronic Arts (EA) Games' video game rendition of the classic film follows the precedent set by the Rockstar Games hit series, "Grand Theft Auto" (GTA). Based primarily on the "GTA" format, the player has virtually unlimited free reign to explore the city map of 1940s New York.

However, the game's strength lies in its storyline missions. Players can name and create their own characters, then pimp them out with customizable features such as mustaches, fedora hats and fine Italian suits. (Perhaps the most hilarious part of the game is hearing a college dorm room packed with heterosexual guys arguing the finer points of a created gangster's wardrobe and hearing lines such as, "Pick the tan tie, it goes better with his shoes!")

The player-created character is peripherally woven into the plot of the film version of "The Godfather."

For example, when Michael Corleone uses a planted pistol to knock off some mob leaders in a



COURTESY PHOTO

Videos gamers can now roll up their sleeves and try their hand at playing Michael Corleone in "The Godfather."

restaurant, the player is responsible for stashing said assassination weapon. In addition, the film's cut scenes are excellent. The pixelated versions of the film's characters are for the most part very good, with the exception of the video game version of Michael Corleone, who fails utterly to look or sound like Al Pacino. Especially well-rendered are the hot-headed Sonny and the Godfather himself, Don Corleone. The video game Don resembles late actor Marlon Brando down to a T, with that same dead stare, preposterous jowls

and raspy mumble.

While it remains faithful to the film, the game's true fun lies in allowing the player to embrace his or her inner gangster. Tired of being a "button" for the powers-that-be? Feel free to take to the streets and dodge the coppers en route to achieving capo status.

Again, like "Grand Theft Auto," "The Godfather" encourages players to both beat their way down and shoot their way up to the top of the criminal food chain.

While piloting his or her self-created Slim Shady around town,

the player is required to earn a dishonest living by shaking down local businesses for their hard-earned cash. Having the freedom to rule with an iron fist quickly goes to the player's head, as the player hustles, extorts and intimidates the various denizens of New York City.

Should the locals refuse to comply with diplomacy, do as any true Godfather fan would — simply make them an offer they can't refuse. Like Don Corleone, it helps in the game to speak softly, but carry a big stick. Or a lead pipe.

Or a tommy gun. To rustle up some cash, a veritable armory slash-hardware store is available for use as instruments of destruction.

However, if gamers get tired of using the tools of the trade, they can simply lose the jackets, roll up those sleeves and get their hands dirty with an innovative fist-fighting system.

Remember, spare the rod, spoil the child.

Unfortunately, despite all its fun, the game has definite drawbacks. The game's playing aesthetic has a knack for the arcade — after special gangland-style executions, different catchphrases flash on-screen.

For example, after whacking a guy with a baseball bat, the player is rewarded with the words "Grand Slam Execution" flashing onscreen.

Also, button instructions advising players to "Press Triangle to Extort" and "Press R2 for Execution," while humorous, fail to capture the grave and somber nature of the classic film.

While the game has good graphics, it recycles the same character models and building interiors over and over again, to the point where wandering around feels like the film "Groundhog Day" — every backdoor gambling ring and back alley hustler on the street looks identical.

Despite its shortcomings, "The Godfather" video game is a solid enough effort for fans of the film series to reaffirm a lesson worth learning from the film "Office Space" — damn, it feels good to be a gangster.



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April 6, 2006  
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Mustang Daily

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"You kids are getting high on gas in there."

Thursday, April 6, 2006

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SEX COLUMN

# The wingman formation

A wingman, as defined in the dictionary, is a pilot who supports another in a hostile environment filled with bogies. The wingman must support the pilot by engaging his target, as well as defending the pilot against possible intruders in a hostile zone.

A "wingman," as we know it, is a buddy who makes another man look good in a hostile bar scene filled with babes. It is the wingman's duty to intercept the plus-sized, beaten-with-the-ugly-stick, or can't-and-won't-stop-talking women who may present an obstacle to the pilot's pursuit. Whether they may defend the sexiest of their pack like fearsome, cackling hyenas, or hunt out men in the vicious hope of satisfying their own terrifying sexual desires, the wingman must, for his pilot, neutralize a sexy girl's friends by any means necessary.

But do not take your responsibilities as a wingman lightly. Do not enter into the position of wingman without knowing what to do. You must study up, you must train, and you must become strong, grasshopper.

According to greatwingman.com, a site that offers a selection of wingman stories and advice, "A great wingman understands the great laws of wingmandom. The laws of 'wingmandom' are laws that have been passed down for thousands of years, and a great wingman has taken a sacred oath to honor and respect those laws."

Laws like:

**Law No. 7**

The wingman should, wherever possible, make his pilot out to be a living legend.

**Law No. 19**

The wingman should always warn his pilot if he believes the primary target is only looking good because of the beer goggles.

**Law No. 13**

The wingman is exempt from public humiliation (after the fact) if he in fact has to take the fat and/or ugly girl home to ensure that the primary target is captured.

And my personal favorite:  
**Law No. 12**

The wingman must never

## Daniel SEXPLAINS it all



By  
Daniel  
Gingras

attempt to poach the primary target while his pilot is using the restroom.

A full list of international wingman laws can be found at wikipedia.org, and it would behoove you to learn them, "goose."

But, like they are at so many other things in life, such as sewing, smelling good, math and learning foreign languages, women are better at being "wingmen" than men. You should either make some friends who are girls and bring 'em to the bars, or check out wingwomen.com. The New York-

based Web site sells their wingwomen's time for \$50 an hour to guys who want help meeting

women and have lost faith in the wingman scheme. "Women are used to guys and their wingmen hitting on them," founder Shane Forbes said. "Women have developed reactive strategies to counteract the wingman's pickup mission." Forbes claims that women are more likely to let their guard down when confronted by a man's lady friend instead of his buddy. The Web site boasts a history of more than 200 customers, and a "conversion rate" of 65 percent, which meant that the clients got phone numbers from the girl they picked.

It's bizarre that we need to gang up in order to approach women in the first

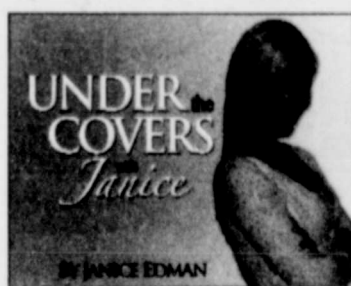
place. But it seems to work. Wingmen everywhere, we salute you. Keep up the good work.

For questions, comments, or to pay Daniel \$50 an hour to be your wingman, write to dgingras@calpoly.edu.

The wingman should, wherever possible, make his pilot out to be a living legend.

**Wingman Law No. 7**

## What does the other sex have to say?



Although I found Vogue's cover story on Ashlee Simpson less than stimulating, one feature in March's Details specifically awakened me to a new sexual trend sweeping the Internet ... the growing popularity of Casual Encounters

COLUMNIST LINEUP...

Monday - The Bottom Line

Tackling everyday ethical issues in the business world

by Aliza Elbert and Jennette Ballas

Tuesday - Political columnists

• Talk Back with Jack (Liberal view)

• The Right Way (Conservative view)

by Jack Ingram and Brian Eller

Wednesday - Poly Point-blank

The ASI president writes about the issues he finds important to the student body.

by Tylor Middlestadt

Thursday - Sex columns

• Daniel Sexplains it All (Male view)

• Under the Covers with Janice

(Female view)

by Daniel Gingras and Janice Edman

Friday - Two Classy Gents

They've taken on President Baker, Scientology, love-making and Chuck Liddell. What will our humor columnists take on next?

by Mike Matzke and Doug Bruzzone

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE LINEUP... Online Exclusive

Tuesday

the  
WORD  
on the  
SCREEN



an online column exclusive

Wednesday

What's  
BIG?



By Julianne Byer

Thursday

A Healthy  
Habit



by Jessica Dean



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Attention illegal immigrants

All right, now I'm pissed off. I don't know about how other people feel about this, but I am about ready to go postal over this issue of illegal immigration. These little rallies they have been having over the last couple of weeks are getting old really fast. Here's a word for illegal immigrants: Stop waving the flags of your nationality in our country and get out. If you like your country so much as to wave its flag around, purposefully trying to antagonize people who actually belong here, perhaps you would do us all a favor and return to that nation and stop using our tax dollars for free education, free medical care and every other service you take for granted.

Honestly, this situation should not even be an issue. Very few Americans have a problem with immigrants, per se; we're all immigrants after all, even the Native Americans got here somehow. We are very appreciative of the contributions of immigrants and the work they have done to make America a better nation, but we do not appreciate people illegally pouring into our country by the millions. And we really don't like having those same lawbreakers waving their foreign flags and holding rallies in our nation as if they have a right to be here.

The government needs to get on the ball and start enforcing existing legislation and reinforce our border patrol to stem the tide of those who would break into America. Haven cities in the southwest need to stop making it so that police officers cannot report the presence of illegal immigrants to federal authorities. Americans are not going to let many elected officials get away with not listening to our concerns and this next election may spell the end of many a congressman's time in office over this issue.

**Ryan Hunter**

*Mechanical engineering senior*

### 'Under 4' campaign drinking the haterade

While facebooking I noticed that the "Under 4" people are trying to further spread their hatred of drinking. They spent perfectly good money on putting an ad on Facebook. I thought the lame posters and ads in this fine paper were bad enough.

I hate the stupid "Under 4" campaign that Cal Poly has. It's tough to say if I hate it more than the study "25-35 hours a week"

thing. Anyways, the studying thing will be bitched about later in the quarter.

I hate seeing the signs telling me that 67 percent of Cal Poly students have less than four drinks when they drink. Forty-nine percent of Cal Poly students go to a bar or party one time or less per week.

When I look around at school, I've noticed that about half the people in my class are nerds. I'm going to have to say that those are the ones who are not drinking. I don't want to be compared to nerds, grades do that already. Oh yeah, I have a 3.41 GPA overall and I drink all the time.

I was fortunate enough to take the survey last year and I answered the maximum number of drinks for every question. I'd like to see the full results of the survey because I'm sure it indicates that there are cool kids at Cal Poly that drink a lot. As one of my professors always says: There are three types of people: liars, damn liars and statisticians.

There really isn't anything to do in this town other than go out and drink on the weekends. Anyways, getting drunk recreationally a few times a week is a lot of fun.

**Jon Haines**

*Journalism senior*

### Views on immigration and the pending bill

I am simply shocked at how people are reacting to the fact that the government wants to criminalize ILLEGAL immigrants. Don't get me wrong, but aren't you a criminal when you commit an illegal act. Therefore, all ILLEGAL immigrants are already criminals. Now, does this mean we should round up all the illegal aliens in the United States and ship them back to their prospective countries? No. What I do believe is that the new bill H.R.4437 offers the best solution so far. For those of you who do not know, this bill will grant ALL illegal immigrants amnesty. They just need to do three little things: 1. Pass a background check (How dare they ensure we aren't allowing dangerous criminals into the US) 2. Pay back taxes (For once they will have to pay taxes just like you and I) and 3. Learn English (enough said). The problem most have with this bill is not

the granting of citizenship, but the increased penalties after the bill passes. Some of the provisions include: Increased penalties for aliens reentering illegally and alien smuggling, crackdown on alien gang members, aggravated felony provisions and barring terrorist aliens from naturalization. To me, all of these things sound like they should already be enforced. The fact is that illegal immigration is a problem in the U.S.. This bill simply strives to prevent further illegal activity from happening, and to fix the problems we have. My biggest problem has to deal with the amount of money spent on illegal immigrants. Although they take advantage of some of the social services in the United States, such as schooling and hospital care, they don't put money back into the economy through taxes like other Americans. I have no problem if they are over here, but if they are, simply pay for the right to be here just like the rest of us. I work hard for my money and pay my taxes. It's not fair for me to have my tax dollars going to people that don't pay themselves.

**Matthew Neal**

*Aerospace engineering junior*

### Immigration policy and the pressures of economics

As a credit card-carrying member of the Aryan race, a blood relative of Native Americans and a descen-

dent of migrant monkeys, my opinions on immigration are instantly relevant.

America always has crappy jobs. So we import: Indentured white guys to farm, black slaves for cotton, Chinese for railroads, Irish for drinking I guess, Italians to organize crime, Germans for rockets and so forth. We even imported people from Nebraska to cities as factory drones, but they didn't pass over arbitrarily defined borders. In either case it's safe we are addicted to migrant labor.

I once had dreams of building robots to replace those crappy jobs, but with all this cheap labor and expensive robo-gas, my dreams may go unfulfilled. These immigrants fulfill their dreams of prosperity filling the very jobs I wanted to replace fulfilling my dreams. A native born American forced to work like migrant labor,

lunacy! In order to gain access, the cushy lifestyle I've been led to believe, I must have and may be forced to move to Mexico, where my engineering pesos make me feel like an American CEO. But they may not let me, what with all those American-born Latinos and whites escaping an America that bankrupted itself trying to maintain the illusion of security.

I'll look back and realize how quickly our immigration reform became obsolete under the pressures of economic factors. I'll remember Latinos booting Mexicans out the door as the cities swell and jobs dwindle. Maybe I can create a hovel out of chunks of the ol' border wall that couldn't stop the attack, and keep myself warm burning piles and piles of fibbed guest worker files.

**Morgan Elam**

*General engineering senior*



JAMES GLEN MUSTANG DAILY

## Got something to say?



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in 250 words or less to

mustangdaily@gmail.com

**BREAKING NEWS**  
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## Facebook

continued from page 1

Currently, Facebook's main source of revenue is paid advertisements and private investments. The costs of running the site consist mainly of server space. ComScore says the site had as many as 5.5 billion page views in the month of February, compared to MySpace's 23.5 billion.

### Questions of privacy

In the event that Facebook undergoes a change in ownership, all the site's private information would also switch hands, according to Facebook's privacy policy. "Your user information may be Web site's online statement informs users. "In any such transfer of information, your user information would remain subject to the promises made in any existing Privacy Policy."

Most students, however, seem unconcerned about the privacy implications. "People should realize that when they sign up for services like Facebook that their information could get out in the open," Bruce Halperin '08 said.

"They're entitled to sell it, and we signed over our information willingly," Robert Krone '08 said.

Facebook's privacy policy states that information will be shared with third parties only when "1) reasonably necessary to offer the service, 2) legally required or, 3) permitted by you."

MySpace, dealing with similar issues, is currently working with Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal to enhance safety measures.

### Entrepreneurship

The possible sale of Facebook

means a boon for student business initiatives.

"Colleges, especially Princeton, a school without professional schools, should encourage students to get into entrepreneurship, especially for some of the departments that lend themselves directly to starting your own business, like engineering," Halperin said.

Tom Szaky '06, one of Princeton University's most recent entrepreneurs, took an indefinite leave from Princeton three years ago to co-found TerraCycle, Inc., a company that uses wastes from worms as fertilizer.

"I think college entrepreneurship is an amazing way to go because you get to do anything you want," Szaky said. "It's the safest move ... There's a lot of power in being a student. People are less intimidated and are more willing to help."

"If I got an offer for two billion dollars, I'd take it," he said.

### Rise of Facebook

In high school, Zuckerberg and Adam D'Angelo, classmates at Phillips Exeter Academy, created Synapse, a plug-in for Winamp media player that automatically creates user playlists based on previous song preferences. After the program was posted online, many large corporations offered to buy it for as much as \$2 million.

Zuckerberg and D'Angelo declined those offers at first. By the time they changed their minds after entering college, the offer was no longer available.

There may be some obstacles before Zuckerberg's current product gets sold. A civil lawsuit was filed against Facebook in September 2004 by rival site ConnectU LLC.

## American Bar Association study: Women unequally represented in top law jobs

Alejandra Del Real

THE DAILY FREE PRESS (BOSTON U.)

BOSTON — Despite statistics showing that women are increasingly under represented in law firm partnerships, Boston University School of Law continues to enroll even numbers of both sexes.

According to "Facts About Women and the Law," a study published by the American Bar Association, law firms employ an almost even number of male and female associates, but this does not hold true for the higher posts. In 1997, only 14 percent of law firm partners were women. According to the National Association for Law Placement, this number only rose to 17 percent in 2005.

The School of Law has admitted women since it opened in 1872, and for the past 20 years, the number of men and women in the school has been split almost evenly. The class of 2008 is composed of 48 percent women, and the traditional three-year full-time Juris Doctor program consists of 419 men and 423 women, according to School of Law dean ad interim Maureen O'Rourke.

BU alum Bettina Plevan has worked for the Proskauer Rose law firm for more than three decades and has earned her way to becoming a partner. When Plevan graduated from the School of Law, only 10 percent of the class were women, but

according to her, those were different times.

"We graduated during the time of the feminist movement, and we really wanted it," she said. "I wanted to succeed very badly and I had the drive to do it."

According to Plevan, who has been voted one of the "Best Lawyers in America" numerous times, women do not reach high posts for various reasons, including the amount of time necessary to succeed and society's expectations.

"Some women have a feeling that they do not have the support necessary to make it in this career, and there are always expectations of society that women should, for the most part, dedicate more of their time to the household," she said. "Achieving a partnership and bringing in the clients for the firm requires time and effort that a lot of women do not have, and if they do not have the right support like I did, it is very difficult to do."

For O'Rourke, another reason for the low number of female partners lies in the law firms' retention tactics.

"The hard problem for the legal profession is not so much in hiring but in retaining," she said. "Firms and other legal employers need to find ways to offer flexible schedules for those women who wish to have a family or take some time off for whatever reason."

Law professor Maria Hylton grad-

uated from Yale and Harvard universities. She left private practice to teach and do research, and she also has seven children ranging in age from three to sixteen.

As for the lack of female partners in big law firms, Hylton said she believes it is the result of a combination of boredom with big firm practice and a desire to manage things well at home.

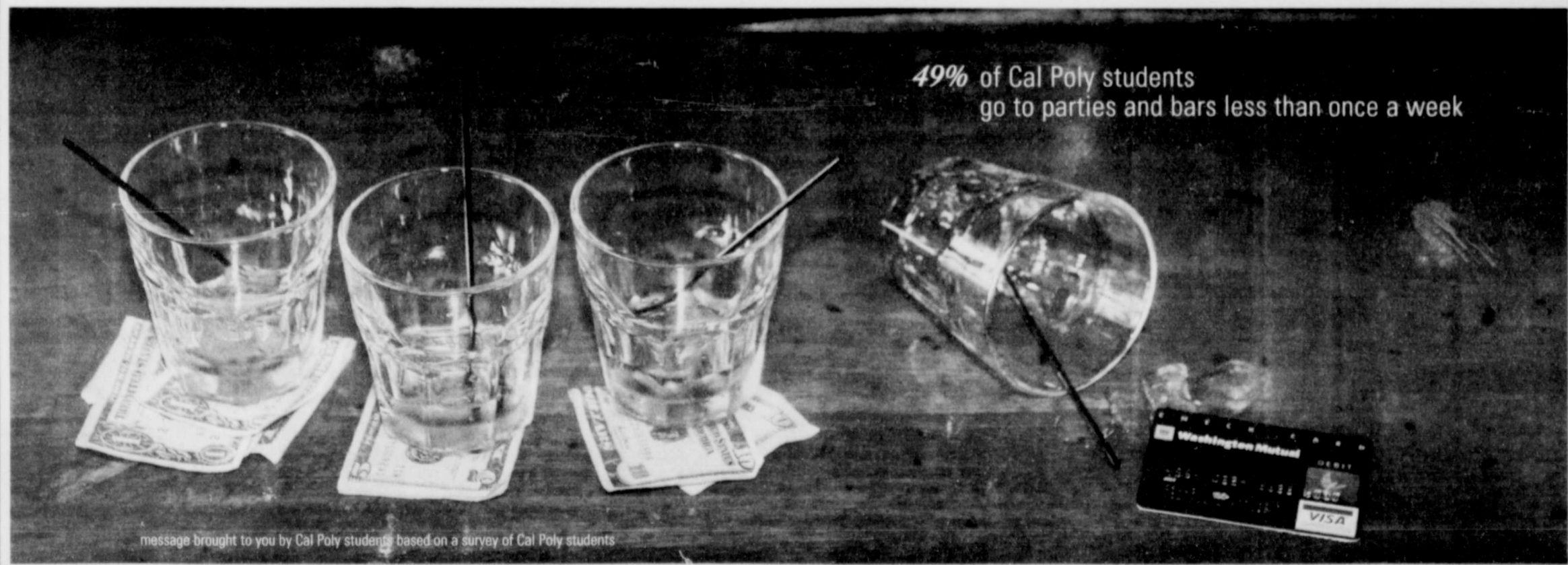
"Contrary to popular perception, raising one's own children is not dull or unintellectual work," she said. "Of all the things a lawyer can do, big firm practice as a partner is one of the most incompatible with a hands-on style of parenting. Not impossible, but not easy."

Despite the low percentage of female partners in large law firms, the School of Law's alumni have managed to succeed in other areas. Among the school's prominent alumni are Middlesex District Attorney Martha Coakley, who was involved recently in the Neil Entwistle case, Judge Sandra Lynch, who was the first woman judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals, former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan and Florence Murray, the first woman on the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

According to the "Facts About Women and the Law" study, there is a "glass ceiling," a level beyond which women and minorities are unable to advance in a workplace.

## Under Four ... or over budget?

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING



message brought to you by Cal Poly students based on a survey of Cal Poly students



International  
briefs

**GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba** — A defense attorney for a Canadian teenager accused of killing a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan asked the judge on Wednesday to halt proceedings because of a lack of established rules for the military trials. "Sir, you should halt these proceedings ... until the government gets the rules together," said Army Capt. John Merriam, an attorney for Omar Khadr, 19.

— The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Gunmen shouting "God is Great!" dragged the burning body of what they said was a U.S. pilot in a horrific video posted Wednesday on the Web by a new al-Qaida-affiliated group that claimed it shot down an Apache helicopter last weekend. The U.S. military expressed outrage over the release of "such a despicable video for public exposure" but said it had serious doubts that the footage was authentic.

— The Associated Press

**BANGKOK, Thailand** — Outgoing Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra moved quickly Wednesday to put the burdens of office behind him, cleaning out his desk and appointing a Cabinet colleague to serve as a caretaker leader until a new government is formed.

Thaksin announced Tuesday night that he would not serve as prime minister following a weekend election in which his party got most of the votes but millions abstained from casting ballots as part of a continuing protest of the Thai leader, who has been accused of corruption and abuse of power.

— The Associated Press

**CAIRO, Egypt** — An extremist group has posted an Internet video that claims to show Iraqi insurgents dragging the burning body of a U.S. helicopter pilot on the ground.

— The Associated Press

## Saddam Hussein dodges questions from prosecutors as he faces first cross-examination

Mariam Fam  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Saddam Hussein dodged questions from prosecutors cross-examining him for the first time Wednesday over a crack-down against Shiites in the 1980s. But he acknowledged approving death sentences for 148 Shiites, saying he was convinced they tried to assassinate him.

At times sharp and combative but often relaxed or even smiling, the former Iraqi leader declined to confirm his signature on documents. When prosecutors presented identity cards of children whose death sentences they said he signed, he maintained they were forged.

"You can buy IDs like this in the market," Saddam said. "Is it the responsibility of the head of the state to check the IDs of defendants and see how old they are?"

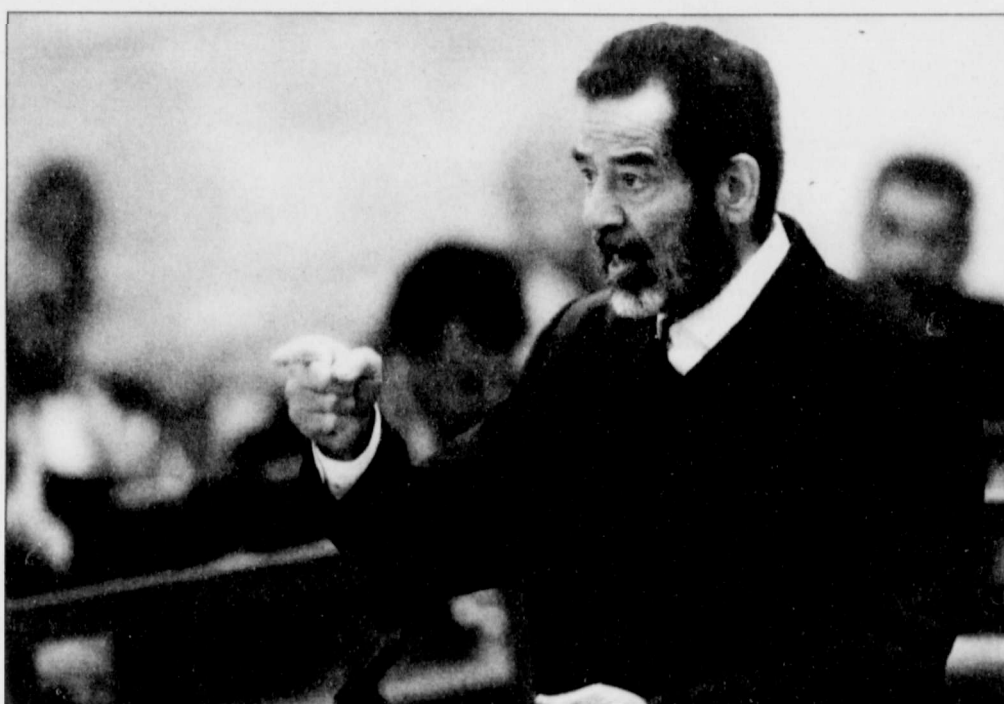
Standing alone in a black suit in the defendants' pen, Saddam refrained from the outbursts he has made in previous sessions. But he denounced the court as "illegitimate" and attempted to tap into Sunni resentment of the Shiite-led Interior Ministry, which many Sunnis accuse of backing death squads.

The Interior Ministry "kills thousands of people on the streets and tortures them," Saddam said.

"Don't venture into political matters," Chief Judge Raouf Abdel-Rahman admonished him.

"If you are scared of the interior minister, he doesn't scare my dog," Saddam retorted.

The session came a day after the



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein testifies during cross-examination at his trial held in Baghdad's Green Zone on Wednesday.**

tribunal indicted Saddam and six former members of his regime on separate charges of genocide for a campaign against Kurds in the 1980s that killed an estimated 100,000 people.

A separate trial will be held on those charges, possibly beginning in 45 days, though some officials have questioned whether the tribunal will be able to conduct two trials simultaneously. In any case, it means a drawn-out legal process amid continued violence and political wrangling over the formation of Iraq's next government.

In the current trial, Saddam and seven other former members of his regime face possible execution by hanging if convicted of a crackdown on Shiites launched after a 1982 assassination attempt against Saddam in the town of Dujail. In the sweep that

followed, 148 Shiites were killed and hundreds were imprisoned. Many say they were tortured.

After a six-hour session, the trial adjourned until Thursday. Prosecutors appeared to have finished questioning Saddam.

Chief Prosecutor Jaafar al-Moussawi asked Saddam about his approval of the death sentences handed down by his Revolutionary Court, which prosecutors have argued gave the Shiites only a cursory trial.

"That is one of the duties of the president," Saddam replied. "I had the right to question the judgment. But I was convinced the evidence that was presented was sufficient" to show their guilt.

Asked if he had read the evidence against the 148 suspects before refer-

ring them for trial, Saddam replied, "If the constitution requires the head of state to review documents before referral, then I abided by it."

"At the time this crime was committed against the head of state, Saddam Hussein, we were in a state of war," Saddam said Wednesday, referring to the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

"Don't you know that now children and women are being killed?" Saddam asked, apparently trying to shift attention to the country's current violence. "Now, the bodies are being thrown on the street as if they were dogs....An Iraqi is not a dog."

Al-Moussawi asked Saddam if he was aware that 28 of the Shiites sentenced to death were under 18 and presented identity cards showing some were minors. Prosecutors have said an 11-year-old boy was among those killed.

"I sentence an underage Iraqi to death? I wouldn't do it even if you were to carve my eyes out," Saddam said.

He added that identity cards can easily be forged. "I could get a hold of an ID saying Mr. Raouf is 25 years old," he added, waving toward the judge.

During the questioning, Saddam cooperated with the court at times, grinning at the chief prosecutor and reciting poetry to the judge, whom he casually addressed by his first name as "Mr. Raouf."

But at times, his relaxed demeanor gave way to a more condescending and irritable side.

## Diplomats: Mideast nations held secret talks on Iraq

Salah Nasrai  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CAIRO, Egypt** — Top intelligence officers from several Arab countries and Turkey have been meeting secretly to coordinate their governments' strategies in case civil war erupts in Iraq and in an attempt to block Iran's interference in the war-torn nation, Arab diplomats said Tuesday.

The meetings came after several Arab leaders voiced concerns about possible Shiite domination of Iraq and their alliance with Iran.

The four diplomats said intelligence chiefs from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and non-Arab Turkey held a series of meetings over the last few weeks to assess the situation in Iraq and work out plans to avoid any regional backlash that may result from sectarian conflict in Iraq.

The diplomats in several Middle Eastern capitals, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said Iran and Syria have been excluded from the talks.

One diplomat whose country is involved in the talks said the officials are focusing on the proposed U.S.-Iranian dialogue on Iraq and the implications on Arabs and Turkey of any "American-Iranian deal."

Government officials in Egypt and Jordan declined to answer questions on the meetings.

Reports in the Arab press have suggested that any agreement between Washington and Tehran will be at the expense of Arabs.

Arab nations, mostly Sunni and traditionally suspicious of Iran, are deeply concerned about what they

see as Iran's growing influence in Iraq. Turkey, also a key Sunni Muslim nation, is worried about Iraq's split into sectarian and ethnic entities that will give rise to Kurdish ambitions for independence.

Last year, Jordan's King Abdullah II accused Shiite-dominated Iran of trying to influence events in Iraq. He warned that Iran was seeking to create "a Shiite crescent" that would disrupt the balance of power in the region.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal made similar warnings.

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# New Hamas government is broke, has missed its first pay day for public workers

Ibrahim Brazak  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The new Hamas-led government is broke and missed the April 1 monthly pay date for tens of thousands of Palestinian public workers, Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh said Wednesday.

It was the Islamic militants' first admission they will have difficulty running the West Bank and Gaza without massive foreign aid.

Haniyeh offered no solutions to the cash crunch, pledging only to do his best to make up for tens of millions of dollars in aid being withheld by international donors and appealing to the Arab world to send more donations.

The Palestinian Authority is the largest employer in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, providing salaries for



**New Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, of the Islamic group Hamas, center, conducts his first cabinet meeting in Gaza City on Wednesday. The Palestinian Authority's coffers are empty and the new government is struggling to find money to pay tens of thousands of its employees.**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

140,000 people that sustain about one-third of the Palestinians. Haniyeh said it was unclear how the govern-

ment will meet its payroll.

"The Palestinian Finance Ministry has received an entirely empty treasury in addition to the debt of the government in general," Haniyeh told the first meeting of his Cabinet.

"We are going to do our utmost as a government to pay the salaries of the Palestinian Authority employees despite the cash crisis that we are facing."

Finance Minister Omar Abdel Razek said he is waiting for \$80 million from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

"If they pay, and I hope they will, we will be able to pay salaries by the middle of the month," he told The Associated Press.

A collapse in the Palestinian Authority would devastate an economy where 44 percent of the popula-

tion lives under the poverty line of about \$2 a day and nearly one-quarter of the work force is unemployed, according to the World Bank.

In a symbolic step, Haniyeh said Cabinet members would not be paid until the financial crisis is solved.

"We are not going to receive our salaries until everyone from the Palestinian Authority is paid," he said.

Haniyeh's Cabinet, sworn into office just a week ago, needs to find ways to make up for foreign aid that Western donors are threatening to withhold, largely because of the Hamas' refusal to recognize Israel and renounce violence. In the past, Palestinians received about \$1 billion a year in foreign aid.

Israel also froze the transfer of tens of millions of dollars in tax revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinians since shortly after Hamas' January election victory.

The United States and Canada already announced they are severing ties with the new government, and the European Union is to decide on its aid program next week.



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## Lacrosse

continued from page 16

Despite its struggles, the team is satisfied with this season's success and looking forward to finishing strong in both the playoffs and the national championship.

The WCLL quarterfinal play-offs will start on April 22 at Cal Poly's home field.

The first game will likely be against rival Chico State, depending on how the last games of the season go for both teams. Chico defeated Cal Poly last year in the playoffs.

## Excursion

continued from page 16

before," Yoshihara said.

The club also has a strong appreciation for the environment and works with EcoLogic, a young adult environment group.

"It's our hope that we can start to give back to the environment," Yoshihara said.

The San Luis Obispo chapter is currently awaiting approval from ASI to become an official Cal Poly club. Additional information can be found at [www.excursionclub.org](http://www.excursionclub.org).

## Outdoor Gunn

continued from page 16

work together cohesively.

The Sea Otter Classic may not be a huge road bicycling race, but it serves as a great example of an event that has been going on for years, yet a majority of the population of the California, let alone the United States probably has never heard of it.

One might say that the success of the Tour of California is an indication of the growing popularity of bicycle racing in the United States.

I however, think that the popularity of the Tour of California is more of an indication of the sorry state of professional organized bicycle racing in America.

Yes, there are fans in the United States, but what do you get when you have one large organized race in California, a bunch of little races and a lack of coverage of the sport as a whole? A second rate sport with a lot of potential.

Chris Gunn is a journalism senior and assistant sports editor. You can e-mail him at [gunn@calpoly.edu](mailto:gunn@calpoly.edu).

## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0223

- ACROSS**
- 1 Eliminates, gangster-style
  - 5 "The Jungle Book" hero
  - 11 Can
  - 14 2003 Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatist Cruz
  - 15 Noted resting place
  - 16 Breakfast buffet dispenser
  - 17 Deal in sweet tubers?
  - 19 "Awesome!"
  - 20 Classic muscle car, for short
  - 21 Fool
  - 22 Signs off on
  - 24 Martinique, e.g.
  - 26 Put away
  - 28 Long teenage conversations?
  - 34 Sneaky laugh
  - 36 Kind of sax
  - 37 Knickknack
  - 38 "The Dukes of Hazzard" spinoff
- DOWN**
- 40 Toshiba rival
  - 42 "The First \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 43 Threatened
  - 45 Submerge
  - 47 Call, as a game
  - 48 Usable connector for oxen?
  - 51 Sugar \_\_\_\_\_ of "Some Like It Hot"
  - 52 Tavern owner on "The Simpsons"
  - 53 Prominent
  - 56 "Funky Cold Medina" rapper
  - 59 Queen's request
  - 63 Three-time Frazier opponent
  - 64 Gagarin's space flight?
  - 67 Holy Trinity part
  - 68 Bob who wrote "Catcher in the Rye"
  - 69 Uzbekistan's \_\_\_\_\_ Sea

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

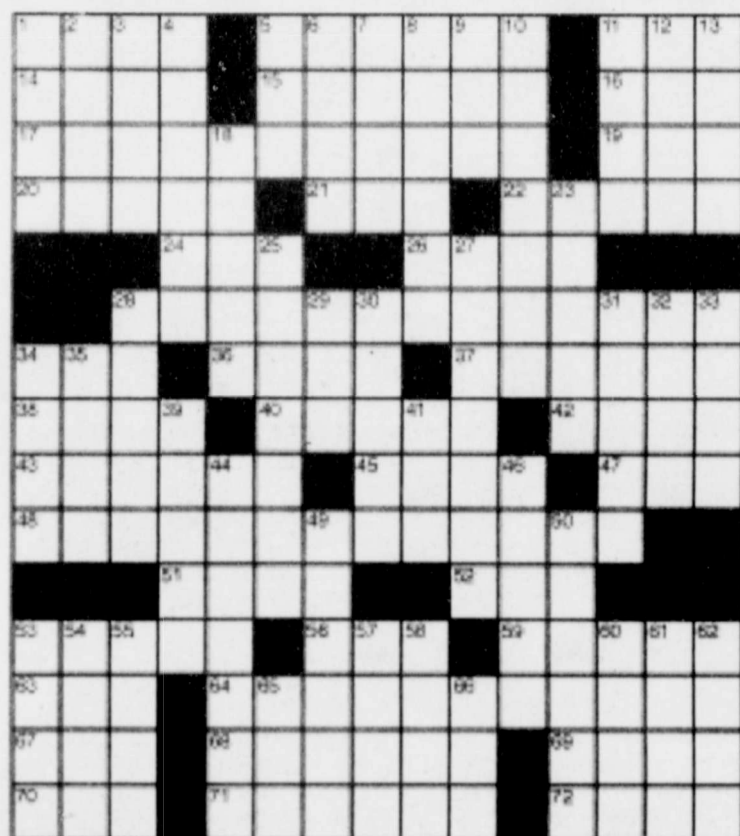
GOBAD LBOIS EDIT  
AVOIR OONA BONE  
DIARY QUEEN BONN  
DREW RUED RIO  
RIALSPLITTER  
FOR THE YOYO  
RHEA OAFS RIDGE  
ENDS GRIEG NORA  
TOAST NERO GOAT  
SEES USORMS  
FIATACCOMPLI  
ORB SOAP EDGES  
LEER TRIALBIKES  
KNEE CLUB OVERT  
SETS HAMM YESES

- DOWN**
- 1 "As seen \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 2 Can
  - 3 Out of fizz
  - 4 Lenient type
  - 5 Printemps month
  - 6 Shamu, for one
  - 7 "We have our \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 8 Former N.Y.S.E. chairman
  - 9 Flee
  - 10 "That's all she wrote"
  - 11 A president usually has one
  - 12 Look inside?
  - 13 Purposes
  - 18 "The Most Happy \_\_\_\_\_" (Loesser musical)

### DOWN

- 23 Enter, as a password
- 25 Shiny wallet material
- 27 Head to toe
- 28 Birch of "American Beauty"
- 29 School carnival planner, perhaps: Abbr.
- 30 Civic-minded company?
- 31 Earlier
- 32 "The Mocker Mocked" artist
- 33 "Note to \_\_\_\_\_"
- 34 Old jalopy

- 70 Curse
- 71 Red Cross supply
- 72 Snoopy



Puzzle by Todd McClary

- 35 \_\_\_\_\_ act
- 39 Pervert
- 41 Deborah's "Shall We Dance" partner
- 44 Fledgling company
- 46 Offbeat
- 49 Toyota coupe
- 50 Like many marathon winners
- 53 Pulp
- 54 Shaving gel ingredient
- 56 Bringer of misfortune
- 57 Acorn droppers
- 58 Red Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
- 60 Prefix with dollar
- 61 The Cenozoic and others
- 62 Easter sight
- 65 Sem. topic
- 66 Item with an underwire

For answers, call 1-800-285-5556, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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6	1	8	4	3	5	7	9	2
2	9	4	6	7	1	3	5	8
3	7	5	2	9	8	6	4	1
7	2	9	5	6	3	8	1	4
4	6	1	8	2	9	5	3	7
8	5	3	1	4	7	9	2	6
5	4	6	3	8	2	1	7	9
1	8	7	9	5	4	2	6	3
9	3	2	7	1	6	4	8	5



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A. Harmon Killebrew

## THE SPORTS MINI BAR

• Extreme skier Doug Coombs, a Jackson Hole mountaineer and guide, died in the French Alps after slipping and falling over a cliff while trying to aid a friend who had plunged over the same precipice, according to authorities and a family friend.

• The Reno-Lake Tahoe area was named one of four finalists Thursday bidding to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, along with cities in Idaho, Austria and Germany.

A delegation of Special Olympics staff and International Board Members will evaluate the sites during visits the next three weeks to Reno and Lake Tahoe; Boise, Idaho; Schladming-Graz, Austria; and Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany.

- The Associated Press

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# SLO Outdoor Adventures

## Lacross looks for success in playoffs

Amy Dierdorff  
MUSTANG DAILY

As the Cal Poly's men's intercollegiate lacrosse team prepares for its final two games of the season and the Western Collegiate Lacrosse League (WCLL) playoffs approach, their winning spirit is unwavering, despite the challenge of practice-halting weather.

"We have to remain focused because we haven't been able to get on any type of grass for a month now," said Brian Kelly, the team's president.

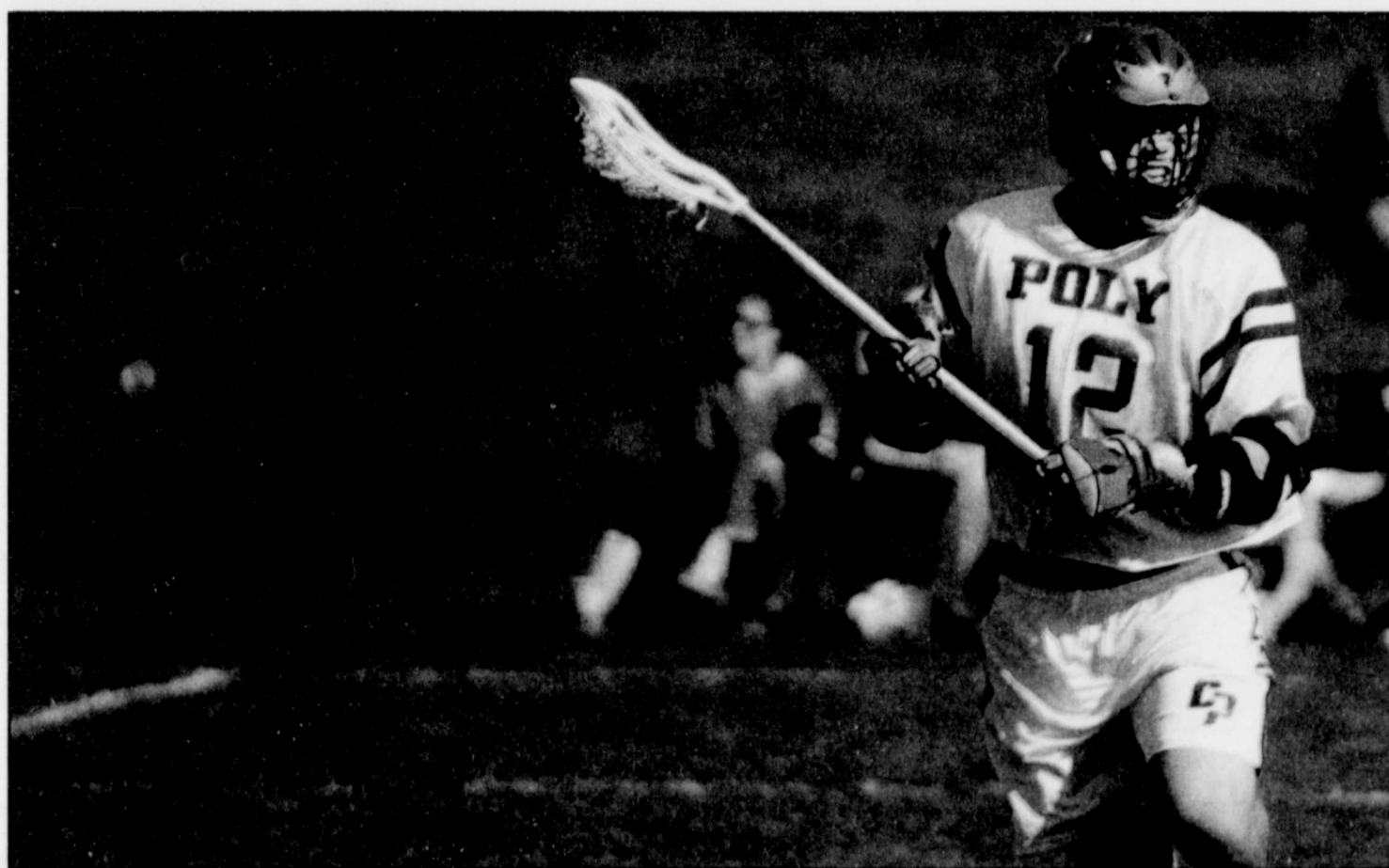
Recent heavy rains have soaked the practice fields for the past few weeks and confined players to parking lot drills and watching videos of previous games to keep their skills sharp. An April 8 game at Stanford and an April 15 game against Santa Clara at Cal Poly's home field will determine their seeding in the playoffs.

"Every week we're improving in the polls as a team," Kelly said. "I'm pretty sure we're going to win the playoffs."

Cal Poly currently ranks No. 10 in the nation, according to a poll put out yesterday by the U.S. Lacrosse Intercollegiate Association.

"That's the highest we've been all season," head coach Marc Lea said.

Lea remains confident that, even though the team is missing out on valuable practice time, it's proven that they have what it takes to make it to the USLIA National



COURTESY PHOTO

Cal Poly's lacrosse team was ranked No. 10 by the U.S Lacrosse Intercollegiate Association in a recent poll, the ranking being the highest in recent years.

Championships in Dallas, Texas this May.

"We have a really good foundation we put in in the fall," Lea said. "We're shooting for a top 5 finish."

A top-5 finish would be a vast improvement over last year's national ranking of 21. Last year was the team's first losing season in more than a decade, due in part to multiple player injuries and the departure of some key graduating seniors.

"We've definitely improved a lot

from last year," Kelly said. "We didn't really know how to play as a team."

Ryan Herchenroether, head coach for the last two seasons, stepped down to pursue a graduate degree, leaving the spot to the man who previously coached the team for 7 years, Lea. Kelly credits this season's improvement to Lea, who returned to lead the program this fall, after a two-year hiatus.

"He taught us how to play all together, instead of as individuals."

Kelly said.

Cal Poly beat the No. 7 team, University of Oregon, 14-13 on April 1.

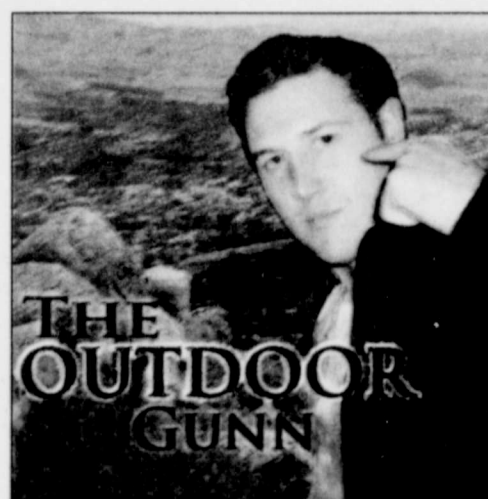
"This last game was really big for us," Kelly said. "It showed our team that we deserve to go to the nationals."

But they still faced their share of disappointment this season. Just a day after the victory against Oregon, the team suffered a disappointing loss against No. 2 ranked Sonoma State, 12-7 on April 2.

see Lacrosse, page 15

## In the wake of the Tour of California

COMMENTARY



When the Amgen Tour of California ended in mid-February on the streets of Redondo Beach, cycling appeared to be gathering a following in the Golden State. The event, which expected nearly 1 million spectators, was widely followed in the media and on the roads. It brought cycling into the spotlight and made people more aware of the sport in California.

Cycling has been huge in Europe for years, but with sports enthusiasts focusing on more mainstream sports in the United States, it didn't seem to have a large following prior to the Tour, or at least a large following was not evident due to a lack of large races, which draw substantial crowds.

Now, just over a month and a half after the Tour of California, another bicycle racing event is ready to take center stage.

The Sea Otter Classic is scheduled to begin today and run through Sunday, April 9 in Monterey.

The event offers road racing as well as a series of downhill mountain bike racing courses, including their staple dual slalom course and the ever popular dirt jump competition, which attracts an international field of competitors. However, it remains to be seen whether or not the SOC will attract large crowds.

Clearly this race has a smaller impact than the Tour of California did based on the sheer number of communities that the tour involved and the fact that the Sea Otter Classic is isolated to Monterey.

I for one did not know about the Sea Otter Classic until I went searching for it. I think that it is here the problem with professional bicycle racing lies.

For a sport with a large fan base across the United States, there is flat-out too much disorganization with the sport. The events are organized individually and lack an umbrella organization, which controls advertising of the events and the teams involved. So, as opposed to having an organization like, Major League Baseball or the Indy Racing League, you have a bunch of sponsors and individual organizers that do not

see Outdoor Gunn, page 15

## Excursion Club offers adventures to SLO

Jennifer Hall  
MUSTANG DAILY

Outdoor enthusiasts can look forward to an increase in networking and organized trips by the new Excursion Club at Cal Poly.

The club began in January 2003 at UC Santa Barbara as an outdoor mailing list that connected people who wanted to organize trips for activities such as kayaking, backpacking and rock climbing.

"We started out as just a group of friends and from there we had a few events per week," said JJ Yoshihara, co-founder and president of the Excursion Club.

Yoshihara and Lacy Skidmore started the club while they were students at UC Santa Barbara and it has now grown to include chapters in Westlake and the newest San Luis Obispo chapter.

The first meeting at UC Santa Barbara took place in fall 2004 and drew nearly 450 people and the mailing list now includes over 650

subscribers.

"The purpose is to bring all of the outdoor enthusiasts in an area together," Yoshihara said.

The Cal Poly club began advertising in January 2006 and plans to hold their first meeting during the fourth or fifth week of April. They are expecting a turn-out of over 400 people

based off of their facebook club membership and an interest list that has over 200 contacts.

"We have an awesome staff for San Luis Obispo," Yoshihara said. "They're very committed, and based on their performance, this is going to be a pretty big thing."

The Cal Poly chapter has been organizing rock climbing trips every

weekend and are currently planning a backpacking and fishing trip to Mammoth over Memorial Day weekend, as well as rock climbing trip to Joshua Tree later this quarter.

"The potential is endless," said Will Young, a sophomore material engineering student and president of the San Luis Obispo chapter of the

“It's a great way for friends to network together to find trips.”

Excursion Club.

The club currently participates in kayaking, rock climbing, mountaineering, paintball, snowboarding, skiing, paragliding, hiking, backpacking, camping, spelunking, white water rafting, fishing and mountain biking.

"If you have an idea, bring it to the club and we can formulate that into an organized event," Young said.

The club also has a pilot that organizes sightseeing trips that fly as low as 500 feet for aerial photography as well as additional social events for club members. No experience is necessary to participate in the trips.

"It's a great way for friends to network together to find trips," Young said.

After the first meeting later this month, the club plans to start registration at a cost of approximately \$20 per quarter or \$40 for the year.

"You really get great people that love the outdoors," Yoshihara said. "They really inspire you to keep going."

Many of the members have participated in numerous outdoor trips such as climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro and have a wealth of experience and equipment to share.

"They open up a window of opportunity that we never had

see Excursion, page 15